

CATHOLIC • ACTION •

Vol. XXII, No. 2



FEBRUARY, 1940

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February Catholic Press Month Feature:

"YOUR LEISURE"—Fifth in the N. C. W. C. Study Club

"YOU AND YOUR WORLD" Series

A NATIONAL MONTHLY PUBLISHED BY THE
NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

Price: 20c



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FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

"Over a manifold activity of the laity, carried on in various localities according to the needs of the times, is placed the National Catholic Welfare Conference, an organization which supplies a ready and well-adapted instrument for your episcopal ministry."—Pope Pius XII.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference was organized in September, 1919.

The N. C. W. C. is a common agency acting under the authority of the bishops to promote the welfare of the Catholics of the country.

It has for its incorporated purposes "unifying, coordinating and organizing the Catholic people of the United States in works of education, social welfare, immigrant aid and other activities."

It comprises the following departments and bureaus:

EXECUTIVE—Bureaus maintained: *Immigration, Youth, National Center Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Information, National Catholic Youth Council, Publications, Business and Auditing, and CATHOLIC ACTION, official organ, N. C. W. C.*

EDUCATION—Divisions: *Statistics and Information, Teachers' Registration, Library.*

PRESS—Serves the Catholic press in the United States and abroad with regular news, features, editorial and pictorial services.

SOCIAL ACTION—Covers the fields of *Industrial Relations, International Affairs, Civic Education, Social Welfare, Family Life and Rural Life.*

LEGAL—Serves as a clearing house of information on federal, state and local legislation.

LAY ORGANIZATIONS—Includes the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women, which maintain at N. C. W. C. headquarters permanent representations in the interests of the Catholic laity. These councils function through some 3,500 affiliated societies—national, state, diocesan, district, local and parish; also through units of the councils in many of the dioceses.

CATHOLIC ACTION STUDY—Devoted to research and reports as to pronouncements, methods, programs and achievements in the work of Catholic Action at home and abroad.

The N. C. C. M. maintains at its national headquarters a *Catholic Evidence Bureau*, sponsors a weekly nation-wide radio *Catholic Hour* over the network of the National Broadcasting Company, and conducts a Catholic Radio Bureau.

The N. C. C. W. maintains in Washington, D. C., the *National Catholic School of Social Service*.

The Conference is conducted by an administrative board composed of ten archbishops and bishops aided by seven assistant bishops.

Each department of the N. C. W. C. is administered by an episcopal chairman.

Through the general secretary, chief executive officer of the Conference, the reports of the departments and information on the general work of the headquarters' staff are sent regularly to the members of the administrative board.

The administrative bishops of the Conference report annually upon their work to the Holy See.

Annually at the general meeting of the bishops, detailed reports are submitted by the administrative bishops of the Conference and authorization secured for the work of the coming year.

No official action is taken by any N. C. W. C. department without authorization of its episcopal chairman.

No official action is taken in the name of the whole Conference without authorization and approval of the administrative board.

It is not the policy of the N. C. W. C. to create new organizations.

It helps, unifies, and leaves to their own fields those that already exist.

It aims to defend and to advance the welfare both of the Catholic Church and of our beloved Country.

It seeks to inform the life of America of right fundamental principles of religion and morality.

It is a central clearing house of information regarding activities of Catholic men and women.

All that are helped may play their part in promoting the good work and in maintaining the common agency, the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

CATHOLIC ACTION records monthly the work of the Conference and its affiliated organizations. It presents our common needs and opportunities. Its special articles are helpful to every Catholic organization and individual.

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CATHOLIC ACTION

"CATHOLIC ACTION consists not merely of the pursuit of personal Christian perfection, which is however before all others its first and greatest end, but it also consists of a true apostolate in which Catholics of every social class participate, coming thus to be united in thought and action around those centers of sound doctrine and multiple social activity, legitimately constituted and, as a result, aided and sustained by the authority of the bishops."

—Pope Pius XI.

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

VOL. XXII, No. 2



FEBRUARY, 1940

Nineteenth Annual Observance of Catholic Press Month

RECURRENCE of Catholic Press Month recalls the fact that February, 1940, marks its nineteenth consecutive observance throughout the United States.

This observance is the outgrowth of one of the most important statements the Hierarchy of the United States has issued to the Catholics of this country. Assembled in annual meeting in September, 1920, the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States voted unanimously to call upon the clergy and laity to unite in a great, organized, national movement on behalf of the Catholic Press.

Following this meeting, the Most Rev. William T. Russell, Bishop of Charleston and first Episcopal Chairman of the Press Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, addressed a letter to every Ordinary in the country asking cooperation in the support and improvement of the Catholic Press.

As a result, in March, 1921, was observed the first Catholic Press Month. In 1922, February was designated as Catholic Press Month, with observance taking place in February every year since. The choice of February as the month was decided upon, in part, because it immediately succeeds the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, Patron of the Catholic Press, which is January 29.

IN PROMOTING Catholic Press Month, the Hierarchy of the United States in 1920 was following up and developing a work begun nearly a year before, when they authorized the formation of the *N. C. W. C. News Service*—an agency for the world-wide collection and dissemination of news of interest to Catholics.

While nearly a score of years have seen varied observances of Catholic Press Month, the last ten years have witnessed a steady increase in the breadth and intensity of activities. Annually the Catholic Press Association of the United States has named a chairman of its Catholic Press Month activities, whose special office it is to stimulate programs throughout the country. The chairman this year is the Rev. J. Fred Kriebs of *The Witness*, Dubuque, Iowa, who is also chairman of the Circulation Bureau of the C. P. A.

THROUGHOUT two decades, the Episcopal Chairmen of the N. C. W. C. Press Department have taken time from their many diocesan duties to write resounding calls to rally to the cause of the Catholic Press. In the course of time these appeals have themselves come to form an impressive fund of Catholic Press literature. Again this year, the Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie and Chairman of the N. C. W. C. Press Department, has sounded the keynote to the 1940 Catholic Press Month observance with a message which is both inspiring and challenging. Bishop Gannon's Catholic Press Month message is printed textually elsewhere in this issue. (See pages 7-8.)

Charles H. Ridder, president of the C. P. A., and Father Kriebs have also issued special Press Month appeals. The *N. C. W. C. News Service* has made available to Catholic publications a considerable amount of material, calculated to be of assistance to Catholic publications and their friends in local promotions of the February observance of Catholic Press Month.

(Continued on page 8)

HOLY FATHER'S REPLY to PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

ACKNOWLEDGING the letter directed on December 23, 1939, by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Pope Pius XII, announcing the appointment of Myron C. Taylor as the President's personal representative to His Holiness, there was presented at the White House in Washington on January 20, 1940, by the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, accompanied by the Right Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, General Secretary of the N. C. W. C., the Supreme Pontiff's reply. The following is the text of Pope Pius XII's message.

"TO HIS Excellency
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
President of the United States of America.

PIUS PP. XII

"Most Excellent Sir:

"Health and Prosperity.

"The memorable message that Your Excellency was pleased to have forwarded to Us on the eve of the Holy Feast of Christmas has brightened with a ray of consolation, of hope and confidence, the suffering, the heart-rending fear and the bitterness of the peoples caught up in the vortex of war. For this all right-minded men have paid you the spontaneous tribute of their sincere gratitude.

"We have been deeply moved by the noble thought contained in your note, in which the spirit of Christmas and the desire to see it applied to the great human problems have found such eloquent expression; and fully persuaded of its extraordinary importance We lost no time in communicating it to the distinguished gathering present that very morning in the Consistorial Hall of this Apostolic Vatican Palace, solemnly expressing before the world, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, Our appreciation of this courageous document, inspired by a far-seeing statesmanship and a profound human sympathy.

"WE HAVE been particularly impressed by one characteristic feature of Your Excellency's message: the vital, spiritual contact with the thoughts and feelings, the hopes and the aspirations of the masses of the people, of those classes, namely, on whom more than others, and in a measure never felt before, weighs the burden of sorrow and sacrifice imposed by the present restless and tempestuous hour. Also for this reason, none perhaps better than We can understand the meaning, the revealing power and the warmth of feeling manifest in this act of Your Excellency. In fact Our own daily experience tells Us of the deep-

seated yearning for peace that fills the hearts of the common people. In the measure that the war with its direct and indirect repercussions spreads; and the more economic, social and family life is forcibly wrenched from its normal bases by the continuation of the war, and is forced along the way of sacrifice and every kind of privation, the bitter need of which is not always plain to all; so much the more intense is the longing for peace that pervades the hearts of men and their determination to find and to apply the means that lead to peace.

"WHEN that day dawns—and We would like to hope that it is not too far distant—on which the roar of battle will lapse into silence and there will arise the possibility of establishing a true and sound peace dictated by the principles of justice and equity, only he will be able to discern the path that should be followed who unites with high political power a clear understanding of the voice of humanity along with a sincere reverence for the divine precepts of life as found in the Gospel of Christ. Only men of such moral stature will be able to create the peace, that will compensate for the incalculable sacrifices of this war and clear the way for a comity of nations, fair to all, efficacious and sustained by mutual confidence.

"We are fully aware of how stubborn the obstacles are that stand in the way of attaining this goal, and how they become daily more difficult to surmount. And if the friends of peace do not wish their labors to be in vain, they should visualize distinctly the seriousness of these obstacles, and the consequently slight probability of immediate success so long as the present state of the opposing forces remains essentially unchanged.

"As Vicar on earth of the Prince of Peace, from the first days of Our Pontificate We have dedicated Our efforts and Our solicitude to the purpose of maintaining peace, and afterwards of reestablishing it. Heedless of momentary lack of success and of the diffi-

culties involved, We are continuing to follow along the path marked out for Us by Our Apostolic mission. As We walk this path, often rough and thorny, the echo which reaches Us from countless souls, both within and outside the Church, together with the consciousness of duty done, is for Us abundant and consoling reward.

AND now that in this hour of world-wide pain and misgiving the Chief Magistrate of the great North American Federation, under the spell of the Holy Night of Christmas, should have taken such a prominent place in the vanguard of those who would promote peace and generously succor the victims of the war, bespeaks a providential help, which We acknowledge with grateful joy and increased confidence. It is an exemplary act of fraternal and hearty solidarity between the New and Old World in defense against the chilling breath of aggressive and deadly godless and anti-Christian tendencies, that threaten to dry up the fountainhead, whence civilization has come and drawn its strength.

"In such circumstances We shall find a special satisfaction, as We have already informed Your Excellency, in receiving with all the honor due to his well-known qualifications and to the dignity of his important mission, the representative who is to be sent to Us as the faithful interpreter of your mind regarding the procuring of peace and the alleviation of sufferings consequent upon the war.

RECALLING with keen joy the pleasant memories left Us after Our unforgettable visit to your great nation, and living over again the sincere pleasure that personal acquaintance with Your Excellency brought Us, We express in turn Our hearty good wishes, with a most fervent prayer for the prosperity of Your Excellency and of all the people of the United States.

"Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, the 7th day of January 1940, the first Year of Our Pontificate.

"PIUS PP. XII."

Holy Father Lauds U. S. Bishops' Defense of Religion

IN ACKNOWLEDGING the thanks of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States for his *Sertum Laetitiae* Encyclical, marking the 150th Anniversary of the American Hierarchy, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, reveals in an autographed letter addressed to Cardinals O'Connell and Dougherty and the other Venerable Brethren of the American Hierarchy, his appreciation of their efforts in defense of religion in this country. The text of the Holy Father's letter follows:

"Beloved Sons and Venerable Brethren,
"Health and Apostolic Blessing.

THE official letter which you reverently sent to Us after receiving Our Encyclical Letter *Sertum Laetitiae* has brought Us new and striking evidence of the pastoral care with which you bend your efforts toward the defense and encouragement of religion in your country. Truly in reading it, We were filled with joy especially by the zeal and uncommon wisdom of your avowal that in the grave perils of our age the defense of human welfare and the strength of public order are to be found in those teachings which emanate from this Apostolic See, the ark of truth.

IT IS agreed among all foresighted and virtuous men that for the evils with which mankind is oppressed and for the greater dangers which threaten, there is no remedy more certain and more sure than Catholic teaching, if it be heard in its entirety and kept by men unsullied. Wherefore We have not the slightest doubt but that you will carry out with that Apostolic zeal, vigor and constancy in which you excel, all that you have begun of those undertakings which We recently commended to you. If you do so, you will well deserve the highest praise and the exceeding gratitude from religion, from the Church and at the same time from your people and your country for which you earnestly hope not less than We ourselves desire, that it may ever enjoy a lively tranquility and that every good thing it hopes for may happily come about.

MEANWHILE, beseeching God that He may graciously give you of the fulness of His gifts and direct and prosper your works, from the abounding charity of the Lord We impart to you Our Beloved Sons and Venerable Brethren, likewise to the clergy and faithful and to whomever of your people you extend it, the Apostolic Benediction.

GIVEN at St. Peter's in Rome, the nineteenth day of December, in the year MDCCCXXXIX, the first year of Our Pontificate.

"PIUS PP. XII."

News Headlines:

From the world-wide Catholic News Coverage provided to the Catholic Press of the country by the N. C. W. C. News Service.

[Only a few can be presented here but these should suggest topics for interesting and enlightening consideration by study and discussion club members. For complete Catholic news with details, READ YOUR CATHOLIC PAPER.]

POPE PIUS Writes Letter to President, Lauds Peace Efforts; Tells French of Hope World Will Return to Christian Charity; Thanks K. of C. for Gift of Chapel. . . . Naming of Myron Taylor to Vatican Widely Applauded. . . . Nazis Impose 30-million-mark War Levy on Reich Churches Yearly—Catholics' Share 10,000,000; German Bishops Discuss Poland's Plight. . . . National Liturgical Congress Planned. . . . Another Jacobite Prelate Embraces Catholicism. . . . Fr. Lord, Eileen Duggan Chosen for Gallery of Catholic Authors. . . . Mussolini Children Receive First Communion. . . . Pope Praises U. S. Hierarchy for Defense of Religion. . . .

ARCHBISHOP STRITCH Named Chicago Ordinary; Bishop Kiley Heads Milwaukee See; Bishop Winkelmann Ordinary of Wichita; Fr. Metzger Santa Fe Auxiliary. . . . Regular Vatican City Broadcasts to Americas Begin. . . . Catholicism Backbone of Finland's Early Strength. . . . Archbishop Ruiz, Hanava, Dies. . . . First Nun-Postmaster Retires. . . . Jews Donate \$125,000 for Catholic Refugees. . . . Half Nation's Youth Receiving No Religious Training, Says Report. . . . Church and Social Justice to Be Subject of Joint Pastoral to Appear Soon. . . . Pope Comforts Priests Serving with Armed Forces. . . . Noted Catholic Women to Speak in "Call to Youth" Broadcasts. . . . Oberammergau Play Postponed. . . . Conversions in England Increase. . . .

PREDICTIONS of Dire Happenings in Spain Refuted by Franco Regime; Spain Converts Tanks into Tractors; Card. Goma Calls Church-State Situation Good. . . . Vatican-San Marino Concordat Planned. . . . Hindu Official's Tribute to Catholic Church. . . . Cross on Portuguese Peak. . . . 15,000 Priests Mobilized in French Army. . . . Plan Exposition of St. Francis Xavier's Body. . . . Prominent Leftists Voice Disillusionment with Stalin Regime; Ex-Soviet Spy Accuses Browder; French Deputies Vote Ban on Red Officials. . . .

AMERICAN Labor's Prayer to Christ the Worker. . . . 293 Missionary Martyrs in China Since 1339; Another U. S. Sisterhood Enters China. . . . Palm Sunday Coincides with St. Patrick's Day; Rare Event. . . . White House Conference Urges Greater Religious Training for U. S. Youth. . . . Frank Murphy Takes Supreme Court Oath on Boyhood Gift Bible—Fifth Catholic So Honored; Deplores Spiritual Ideals' Neglect. . . . Congregation of Rites Prepares Canonizations, Beatifications. . . . New Vatican City Fire Brigade Formed. . . . Mexico Bishops' Pastoral Declares Education Law Unacceptable; Called Violation of Majority Will. . . . Archbishop Brands Charges Against Mexican Episcopate False. . . . Negroes Profoundly Concerned with Catholic Teachings, Says Editor. . . . High Federal Officials at Catholic U. Mass. . . . Eldest Sister of "Little Flower" Dies. . . . Kentucky Bill Provides Religious Instruction. . . .

FR. STANFORD, O.S.A., Named Head of American College Association. . . . Fr. O'Hara, C.S.C., Notre Dame President, Consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Army-Navy Diocese. . . . Bishop Tihen, Retired, Dies. . . . U. S. Holy Cross Group Escapes Soviet-Occupied Poland. . . . Motta, Catholic, 5 Times Swiss President, Dies. . . . Sigrid Undset Gives Book Royalties to Finn Relief. . . . Christian Trade Unionists of 5 Nations Meet. . . . 4 Notre Dame Nuns Off to China Mission. . . . Church Unity Octave Observed. . . . Sisters of Providence Open Centennial. . . . Bishop Gannon Sounds Catholic Press Month Call; Tells of Press' Services. . . . Card. Hlond Exposes Tragic Plight of Church, Revolting Persecutions, in Nazi-Occupied Poland. . . .

The N. C. W. C. News Service, issued by the Press Department of the N. C. W. C., provides each week to the Catholic Press approximately 50,000 words of news, covering Catholic happenings in all corners of the world, gathered by its own corps of trained correspondents.

BISHOP GANNON'S 1940 PRESS MONTH MESSAGE

THE text of the 1940 Catholic Press Month Message of the Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie and Episcopal Chairman of the N. C. W. C. Press Department, reveals the continuing service to Church and Nation of our well organized and efficient Catholic press, and further, calls to mind its persistent fight against alien "isms" and points out the unity of thought which should animate all interested in support of the contributions which our Catholic editors and their publications are making. Bishop Gannon's message follows in full.

RECENT years of labor on the part of Catholic editors reveal a remarkable service to American society and to the Holy Catholic Church.

No group has more constantly spread awareness among Americans of the evils of Communism and other alien "isms," or analyzed and exposed their false claims. No group has so consistently fought the inroads of Communism in Catholic Spain by pouring light on the American mind to preserve it from a total eclipse by foreign propaganda.

No group has fought harder to keep America out of foreign entanglements while the governments of Europe and Asia were again slowly crumbling into another frightful collapse.

Catholic editors have been tireless in their efforts to instill peace and goodwill, to maintain morality among American people and to spread the Gospel of Social Justice when greed and pride had wrought great ruin.

If proof were needed to show the importance and power of the Catholic Press, the above achievements would be sufficient.

Let not the unity of thought and action, so apparent in Catholic life, be misunderstood for regimentation. The unity of thought among Catholic editors and people on current evils is a mark on the Divine Mission and Holy Guidance in the Kingdom of God on earth. With the Sacred Scriptures, the revealed words of God; the Papal Encyclicals, the inspired words of our Supreme Pontiffs, and tradition, as the source and principle of our Faith, only analysis and logic are needed to make the Catholic position right and just on baffling current problems of the day. Dissolving premises and the lack of faith in the eternal things of God frequently leave our enemies and critics in dismay and mental chaos.

The danger from imported political "isms" to the United States is passing. These new theories of government are definitely discredited. A sound American vision is developing which fits perfectly with the Divine

Mission of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. The American people, who are somewhat innocent in the presence of grandiose schemes for the improvement of life, are equally alert to discover their hollowness and sham and they revert to prudence and common sense.

Within the framework of American traditions, law and order, the American people are fundamentally religious, and the one world voice today which finds an echo in the United States is that of the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church and the American Government, separate and distinct and free from transgressions one against the other, are two societies perfect and free in their own spheres, striving to serve the temporal and spiritual welfare of the American people.

Throughout our American history, we have built our government on the principle of secular authority subject to the moral law; a principle which proclaimed each man to belong to two spheres, one, terrestrial, whose end is the common temporal welfare, and the other, spiritual, whose end is eternal life in another world. The foundation of our civilization is the freedom of man within a closed moral order and the autonomy of the secular power, subject to the prior and inalienable rights of the individual and the family.

He would be blind, indeed, who could not see in these current years, an identity between the Papal Encyclicals and a large part of American thought and aspiration. The moral union of the great new Republic of the West and the old, powerful, enduring Church of the centuries, is more than a dream; it is an objective to be enthusiastically worked for, especially while the Christian civilization of Europe is threatened by atheism and chaos. The Catholic Church and the governments of all the Americas seem destined to collaborate, more and more with the passing of the years, in an enlightened, benevolent program befitting a free, intelligent and Christian American people.

Truth and Justice must be defended and misrepresentation exposed. The dreadful clouds overhanging

the human race today give slight hope for the early resumption of good-will and peaceful understanding. Men who still have faith in God must now, above all times, let their light shine forth that paganism may be put to flight.

The editors of the Catholic Press are contributing their share by throwing light on the path of destiny for America and our Holy Church. They concentrate Catholic thought, distribute it broadcast, forming a

force very powerful in shaping public policy. Outside the pulpit, Catholic editors and authors wield the largest influence in current thought. I know no department in the Church which offers such a golden opportunity for advancement and service to the young Seminarian and Priest, as well as the alert young layman, as the field of Catholic Press and Literature. The "Apostles of the Pen" are the "Complements of the Pulpit."



Catholic Press Month Observance—Continued from page 3

More and more it has been brought home to Catholics of the United States, through the Catholic Press Month programs, that in taking a practical and vigorous interest in the Catholic Press they are promoting a basic interest of the Catholic Church, because they are helping toward the formation of an informed and alert Catholic laity. That Catholic publications have increased substantially in num-

bers and that the individual newspaper and magazine has shown a very heartening circulation growth can be attributed in no small measure to the regular, earnest and widespread observance of February as Catholic Press Month.

Readers of CATHOLIC ACTION will find on page 28 of this issue some timely suggestions for lay cooperation in Catholic Press Month.

CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED CATHOLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February, 1940

- 3—CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE—New England Student Federation, Boston, Mass.
- 4—NEWMAN CLUB FEDERATION—New York provincial, New York City.
- 22—BESTOWAL OF THE SACRED PALLIUM ON THE MOST REV. JOSEPH SCHREMS, ARCHBISHOP-BISHOP OF CLEVELAND, at Cleveland, Ohio.
- 22-24—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—Province of Santa Fe regional conference, Denver, Colo.
- 26-27—CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS—Regional Meeting, Buffalo, N. Y.
- 11-13—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—Province of St. Louis regional conference, Kansas City, Kans.
- 19-21—SECOND COLLEGE CATECHETICAL CONGRESS, Notre Dame, Ind.
- 19-21—NEWMAN CLUB—Provincial meeting, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- 25—CONSECRATION OF MOST REV. ALBERT L. FLETCHER AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF LITTLE ROCK, at Little Rock, Ark.
- 28-29—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN—regional conference, Birmingham, Ala.

May, 1940

- 23-25—CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION—Annual Convention, Detroit, Mich.
- 28-June 1—CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION—annual national conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

June, 1940

- 16-23—INSTITUTE ON INDUSTRY, N. C. C. W.—fourth annual session, Washington, D. C.
- 17-21—CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA—Silver Jubilee Convention, St. Louis, Mo.

September, 1940

- 5-6—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—Province of Detroit regional conference, Detroit, Mich.
- 29-Oct. 2—CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE—18th annual convention, St. Cloud, Minn.

October, 1940

- 12-15—NATIONAL CATECHETICAL CONGRESS—Sixth National, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 24-25—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN—meeting of Board of Directors, Detroit, Mich.
- 26—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN—meeting of Diocesan Presidents, Detroit, Mich.
- 27-30—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN—twentieth annual national convention, Detroit, Mich.

April, 1940

- 6-8—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—Portland regional conference, Portland, Oreg.
- 8-9—CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS—regional meeting, New Orleans, La.
- 10—CONSECRATION OF THE MOST REV. SIDNEY MATTHEW METZGER AS TITULAR BISHOP OF BIRTA AND AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SANTA FE, at San Antonio, Tex.



SIDELIGHTS *on* SOCIAL ACTION

Contributed
by the
N. C. W. C. Department of Social Action

INDUSTRY

TWO ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY.—Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, is the 21st anniversary of the "Bishops' Program of Social Reconstruction." Washington's Birthday, February 22, is the 20th anniversary of the public release of the "1919 Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States," which has among the many subjects it treats a section also on industrial relations reprinted separately, obtainable at N. C. W. C. headquarters. A good talk for a February meeting can be built around these two, including the new foreword by Archbishop Mooney for the 20th anniversary edition of the former, which shows the points that the country has partially adopted and the parts remaining to be adopted. Both can be obtained from the Publications Office of the Conference for 15 cents. . . . *Study Outlines*—The Bishops' Program has a good brief study outline printed with the text. We have a longer study outline on it, also, which goes into it more thoroughly; this is mimeographed and sells for 10 cents. It was prepared especially for the study clubs on sociology during the 1939-40 season for the Detroit Catholic Discussion Study Clubs. . . . *"Catholic Work for Social Justice"*—This pamphlet will help you to prepare better that talk on the two programs; it puts them in the setting of Pope Leo's Encyclical "On the Condition of Labor" and Pope Pius XI's Encyclical on "Social Order," as well as in the setting of other work. Every once in a while you hear a Catholic say that the Church has not done enough for social justice in the United States. Anyone who says that cannot know of these two programs and should be helped to know them. The "Bishops' Program of Social Reconstruction" is a document that the history of this period will always record. That a committee of Bishops, appointed by the Hierarchy of the country, should, right after the last war, have mapped out a road that we have slowly traveled in part, if only in part so far, is something to be proud of. . . . *The Bishop's Program*—Twenty-one years ago the Bishops' Program was advocating family living wage laws above the

standard of even the present new law; social security, including the health insurance which we haven't yet obtained; the legal protection of labor's right to organize, now being fought again; a national employment service; the public housing which we are slowly providing; high wages for labor's sake and prosperity's sake, etc., etc. Ten out of 11 of its proposals have been adopted in whole or in part, although many of these have to be improved. The 11th is labor's participation in management and ownership. Archbishop Mooney's foreword tells this story and tells also of how the program is completed by the Papal Program for a new social order as found in Pius XI's Encyclical on Social Order, a program still to be adopted. . . . *Social Order*—Sometimes people talk of this social order as being remote and utopian and that if it comes it is to come at one swoop. Actually Pius XI's Encyclical on Social Order speaks of it as growing out of what we have now. Ordinary collective bargaining can be a step towards a guild order; employers' associations and unions that gradually increase the range of their joint action to make their industry end unemployment and do so by also serving the consumers are on the way towards a guild order. When the government throws a job jointly on the employers' associations and unions of an industry, it is helping the guild system to grow. Proposals for the general self-government of industries by employers' associations and unions with governmental protection and help are of the same sort. This is a high-point to remember in the February anniversary celebrations, in the study of the Bishops' Program, in the study of the Encyclicals and in the application of Catholic social teaching to the United States. . . . *The Unemployed*—The relief situation over the country is in a very bad way, so private reports have it. Catholic lay organizations, after getting in touch with local Catholic Charities and finding out the facts, can often help them to raise money and make representations to public authorities.

CITIZENSHIP

Religion: The Foundation of Democracy—"All forms of the democratic process depend upon a fundamental and consciously accepted sense of the meaning of life and the spiritual values in life, and . . . this must be a definite part of all education in a democracy." This principle, adopted by the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy, January 20, is the basis for its recommendations "to make more available to children and youth through education the resources of religion as an indispensable factor in the democratic way of life and in the development of personal and social integrity." It was brought out during the Conference that approximately one-half of the children and youth of America receive no formal religious instruction. This fact underscores the uncompromising statement made by His Holiness Pius XII in his Encyclical "To the Church in the United States," and the recommendation of the Conference comes as if in response to his complaint: "We raise Our voice in strong albeit paternal complaint that in so many schools of your land Christ often is despised or ignored, and new educational systems are sought after which cannot but produce a sorrowful harvest in the intellectual and moral life of the nation." . . . *Pius XII and American Problems*—Irreligion in our public schools is but one of the many problems of the United States to which His Holiness gave attention. Read and study this Encyclical for a short and

authoritative treatment of the Church's history in our country, its progress, the training needed by Catholics to meet today's problems, particularly in the field of social justice. A study club outline which includes a few selected pamphlet references on each specific topic is included in the N. C. W. C. edition of this pamphlet. It will help discussion clubs, groups and individuals approach our common problems as good Catholics and good citizens. . . . *The Bishops' Pastoral*—The Encyclical "To the Church in the United States" should be read especially in connection with the Bishops' General Pastoral Letter of 1919. This pastoral, the 20th anniversary year of the issuance of which we are now celebrating, treats of many of the same subjects as the Encyclical, as well as other special phases of American life. Compare the corresponding sections and supplement one with the other. Above all, do not overlook the section on National Conditions on page 63, which includes a discussion of Clean Politics and Public Office and Legislation. The principles so clearly and simply stated in this section need to be known and adhered to by all Catholics in the exercise of their rights as citizens, particularly during election year. Diocesan councils and other groups can well make a study of this subject before election time. Supplement it with reading of The Christian Democracy Series pamphlets.

PEACE

America and the Pope's Five-Point Program—Specific application of the Pope's five-point peace program to what America can do to bring about peace and help establish world organization for lasting justice and peace, and a discussion of measures to keep the United States from becoming involved in war will feature the 14th annual Conference of the Catholic Association for International Peace, March 25-26. The five points are these: Rights of nations; disarmament; world organization; rights of peoples; and the supremacy of justice and charity. These points will be treated from the angle of the policies urged by the C. A. I. P. Executive Council: Keeping us out of war; American help toward peace in Europe; and plans for American entrance into world organization. Meantime the study of the mimeographed peace outline (price 5c) is recommended in connection with the forthcoming pamphlet on the Pope's peace statements so as to furnish an introduction to Catholic teaching upon international life. . . . *The American Bishops on World Organization*—There is universal talk of the necessity of world organization to follow the present conflict. This is advocated by Pope Pius XII in his famous Christmas Message; and it was advocated before him by Popes Pius XI and Benedict XV. The American Bishops in the Pastoral Letter of 1919, issued so closely after the world war, urged

the "organization of international peace." Celebrate its 20th anniversary by club or parish talks on its section on International Relations. Follow it with panel discussions on the papal teaching with regard to international organization and the obligations of Catholics. References: *A Papal Peace Mosaic* and *Christian Way to Peace* (10c each). Other references and suggestions supplied on request. For the Christmas message of Pope Pius XII to the Cardinals, see January CATHOLIC ACTION. . . . *Hull Trade Treaties*—The Hull Reciprocal Trade Agreements are now under fire, and large organizations of business, consumers, labor and farmers are plunging into the fray. As consumers, as workers and as citizens of America and the world community, we need to know the relation of high tariffs to high prices, unemployment, international ill-will and war. The Committee Report of the Catholic Association for International Peace on "Tariffs and World Peace" (10c) gives an analysis of the tariff question. A study club outline is included in this pamphlet, which is recommended not only to groups whose particular interest is world relations but to individuals and clubs at work on problems of consumers. Special references and material on the Hull Trade Treaties will be furnished on request.

RURAL LIFE

Farmer Cooperatives.—Various types of cooperatives are being formed today, and an increasing number of people are inquiring about them and about how to participate in the movement. Perhaps the easiest way to learn the essentials of cooperation is to look at one of the more simple types among farmers. There is, for example, a so-called "beef ring." It is much more costly for the farmer to buy beef at the local butcher shop than to raise it himself. However, no one family can consume any considerable part of a beef as fresh meat during summer months. Consequently it has become customary in certain parts for a group of approximately 20 families in a neighborhood to form "beef rings," and each in turn to furnish a beef animal for the entire membership. A record is kept of the number of pounds of meat that each family receives, and at the end of the season any excess or shortage on the part of any of the families is balanced up by cash payment. Under these arrangements there is no opportunity for profit, but each member-family receives the benefit of very substantial savings. All get their meat at a much lower cost than if the live animal were first shipped to the packer in a distant city for slaughter and then back again, to be sold by the local butcher. They provide themselves with fresh meat at a

notably lower cost than they could secure it through the usual channels of trade. . . . *Catholic Membership in Cooperatives*—Some of these "beef rings" are in Catholic communities and have a Catholic membership. More of them, however, are "mixed." So, too, one finds both Catholic and mixed types in a variety of other cooperative ventures, such as clubs or temporary groups formed to buy feed, coal, seed, gas and oil, salt for farm animals, and a great variety of other items. Catholics have shown a considerable interest in cooperation in this country. In not a few instances, pastors have assumed the lead in establishing cooperatives in their communities, and have continued to exert their influence to keep them on a genuine "co-op" basis. There can be no cause for surprise in this, since as an economic system it is much more Christian than is the competitive system today. Cooperation has genuine social values. It makes for self-help and self-reliance. More important still, it has moral and religious implications which, if properly emphasized, cannot but redound to the good of the individual member and of the entire cooperative unit. A small publication on this subject is *Consumers' Cooperatives*, one of the N. C. W. C. Social Action Series of booklets.

FAMILY LIFE

Childhood Religion—What is perhaps the first booklet published in this country aiming specifically at helping parents in their tasks of training their children in their religion within the home bears the title, *Childhood Religion*. This small publication of the Family Life Section of the N. C. W. C. Social Action Department has proved itself a very handy guide. In simple and readable style it discusses the various religious and moral truths that the average child is capable of knowing at different age periods. Then it gives attention to the various methods that are best used in the religious and moral training of young children. The use of pictures, stories and projects is emphasized, and special attention is given the matter of teaching the small child his first prayers. . . . *Child Training*—The child's religious development is the most important phase of his training. It is at the same time the phase that naturally lies closest to the heart of God-fearing parents. These parents realize that religion must permeate the entire education if children are to receive a genuine Christian training. They are aware of the need, not only from the viewpoint of their

children's eternal welfare but also because of its value in the training of their characters and in the shaping of their personalities. More than that, they appreciate the privilege it is to cooperate with God in forming Christ in the souls of their little ones. Full of deepest meaning to such parents are the words of His Holiness, Pius XI, in his Encyclical on "Christian Marriage": "God wishes men to be born not only that they should live and fill the earth, but much more that they be worshippers of God, that they may know Him and love Him and finally enjoy Him forever in heaven. . . . From which it is easily seen how great a gift of divine goodness and how remarkable a fruit of marriage are children born by the omnipotent power of God through the cooperation of those bound in wedlock." . . . *Group Study*—Fortunately, there is today a definite increase of interest in the teaching of religion to children in the home. *Childhood Religion* has been extensively used by parents both for individual and for group study. It is hoped that many more parents will be inspired by it to fulfill with zeal and intelligence their sacred duty.



THE FIELD of CATHOLIC EDUCATION

As Viewed by the N. C. W. C. Department of Education

Latest Catholic Elementary School Figures.—The N. C. W. C. Department of Education reports that for the school year 1937-38 there were in the United States, 7,916 Catholic elementary schools, staffed by 59,701 teachers, and attended by 2,086,071 pupils.

These figures compiled in the latest N. C. W. C. biennial survey of Catholic colleges and schools indicate a loss of 1.1 per cent in the number of pupils since the previous survey in 1936. This loss, however, is considerably less than the decline of 2.3 per cent noted in the previous survey.

During the same period covered by the latest study the enrollments in public elementary schools showed a decline of 3.035 per cent.

The results of the recent survey will be published by the department from time to time during 1940 in pamphlet form. The complete series of pamphlets will follow the same style as those published in 1938 and, still available, i. e.: *Major Seminaries—Preparatory Seminaries; Universities, Colleges and Normal Schools; High Schools and Academies—Elementary Schools and National Summary; and Directory.*

* * * * *

White House Conference on Children in a Democracy.—That practical steps be taken "to make more available to children and youth through education the resources of religion as an indispensable factor in the democratic way of life and in the development of personal and social integrity," is urged in a report adopted by the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy which closed in Washington, D. C., January 20, and in which several N. C. W. C. officials participated.

To this end it is recommended that a "privately supported, non-governmental agency" be established to make "a critical and comprehensive study" of the "various experiences in the education of children and young people" with a view to "discovering how the child's needs for religious education can best be met in relation to his other needs in a total program of education, without in any way violating the principle of the separation of Church and State."

The report further recommended:

That "adult leaders of children should be persons of the utmost personal integrity and of the highest ideals who have themselves a vivid appreciation of spiritual values."

That "whole-hearted recognition and appreciation of the fundamental place of religion in the development of culture and of American culture in particular, be given by all who deal with children—social workers, and representatives of the press, radio, and motion pictures."

That "religions be treated frankly, openly and objectively as an important factor in personal and social behavior."

* * * * *

Dr. Johnson on Human Relations.—Rev. Dr. George Johnson, Director of the Department of Education, N. C. W. C., declared at the Atlantic States Institute of Human Relations, sponsored in Washington, D. C., January 16 and 17, 1940, by the National Conference of Christians and Jews: "Once the American people realize what is happening to religion in their midst, because they are neglecting to make it an integral element in the education of their children, they will find ways and means of rising above fears and prejudices and work together toward some solution of the problem."

"It is not mere living that brings joy, but living well, and

living well means living virtuously," Dr. Johnson told the Institute. He warned that "there is no surer way of dehumanizing people than by cutting them off from contact with the Divine." "Man is made according to the image and likeness of God," he added. "Let that image be defaced, be clouded and destroyed, and man becomes in the same degree less a man."

"There is much talk these days, as there should be, about the right of every American child to an adequate education," Dr. Johnson continued. "There is a tendency, however, to overlook the fact that before all else a child has the right to know about God Who created him and what the fact that he is God's creature demands of him. As a basis for truly democratic living, we want our boys and girls to realize that all men, regardless of race or color or creed, are their brothers, and that they must love them as they love themselves."

Dr. Johnson told the Institute that "the Catholic people in the United States have always maintained that without religion there is no true education and, accordingly, have developed a system of schools in which religion is the basic integrating element in the curriculum."

* * * * *

New York's Emphasis on Religion.—"Today, religious schools are beginning to assume a position of much more importance to thinking Americans than has been the case for many decades of years," declared Rev. David C. Gildea, superintendent of schools, Diocese of Syracuse, in his 1939 Report, adding: "Heretofore, religion in education in a limited number of privately supported schools seemed to be a condition to be tolerated rather than a program to be fostered or encouraged. Now, at least in some circles, there seems to be a changing attitude—a call even, for religion."

"Two events of recent occurrence in New York State cannot be glossed over without doing violence to a trend—more interest in religion as a savior."

"The first was the action of the New York State Regents in making it possible for pupils in public schools to receive during school time religious and moral instruction under the direction of recognized religious organizations."

"The second was the place of eminence given to religion by the investigation conducted by the New York State Chamber of Commerce. 'In these work-a-day, warring, strenuous times,' the report says, 'we have been paying less and less attention to our religious convictions and feelings. Those convictions and feelings still exist—they are more important today than they ever were—and it is vital that in our education they be honored and promulgated rather than subordinated or excluded. If this nation does not maintain its religious foundation—its whole structure will fail.'"

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Educational Services. Two one-reel motion pictures about radio have been produced by the Radio Corporation of America and are available free for non-theatrical display. The titles of the pictures are: "Air Waves" and "Television." They are distributed through a number of educational institutions located throughout the country. For a list of distributors write to William J. Ganz Co., 19 East 47th St., New York City.

Discussion leaders interested in radio education may be placed on the list to secure free copies of the publication *Education by Radio* by writing to S. Howard Evans, secretary, National Committee on Education by Radio, One Madison Ave., New York, N. Y.

IMMIGRATION: Echoes of Christmas and the New Year

A FEW weeks ago immigration matters were naturally featured against a background of Christmas while some of the cases now pending in the N. C. W. Bureau of Immigration files in turn forecast either happiness or tragedy for certain aliens and their families during 1940.

At Ellis Island. The usual Christmas party to those detained at Ellis Island over the holidays was given on the afternoon of December 21, this consisting of a short talk by the district director, a very fine concert in which one of the N. C. W. C. workers, Miss Frieda Rummler, took part as accompanist, and the distribution of gifts. Several of the N. C. W. C. Diocesan Immigration Committees generously contributed toward the purchase of the latter, and the N. C. W. C. Bureau of Immigration takes this opportunity of extending its heartiest thanks.

In addition to the 255 detained aliens who were counted upon and for whom gifts had been provided, the Island was also unexpected host to the 575 officers and seamen of the scuttled German luxury liner *Columbus*. They were not at the party, as the required "special inquiry" hearings were being held to determine their status under U. S. law, but from time to time some of the officers could be seen looking down from the gallery around the hall in which the festivities were going on. The 37 Catholics among the crew were given the opportunity of attending Mass on the Island and sang with much gusto, but doubtless with some "heimweh" their own and the world's "Stille Nacht." The N. C. W. C. workers reported that the self-shipwrecked seamen were not having at all a bad time of it and had accorded a somewhat rapturous welcome to such unaccustomed delicacies as butter, coffee and ice-cream.

Mother and Son Reunited for Christmas. A young Austrian medical student who has a free scholarship at Johns Hopkins University and is being maintained by St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, was another for whom Christmas had a special significance this year. He was admitted for permanent residence shortly after the "Anschluss," having been forced to flee his native land because of his activities in behalf of Catholic students. He came to the Bureau a few days before Christmas to say that a cable from his mother had informed him that she was arriving on December 24, in transit to Colombia, there being no quota available on which she could enter the United States. He was going to the pier to meet her and was earnestly hoping that she might be allowed to remain over Christmas before transshipping for South America.

The ship arrived about 6 p. m., Christmas Eve, and unfortunately the mother's visa for Colombia was found to be one that would not guarantee her admission on arrival. She was therefore necessarily held for "special inquiry." The N. C. W. C. pier worker telephoned that she had done everything possible to secure the mother's temporary release, but without success, so the Bureau's New York representative went into action. The Boarding Division, having had many years' experience of N. C. W. C. dependability, proved very cooperative, and on the representative's promise to have the mother back on the ship by 8.30 the morning after Christmas, authorization was given for her parole to the N. C. W. C. over the holiday.

After being assisted by the Bureau's representative through all the necessary formalities in Hoboken and Ellis Island the day after Christmas, the mother was able to spend ten more happy days with her son before sailing for Colombia, whose Consulate had in the meantime agreed to supply the necessary visa.

Ineligible to Citizenship. A family for whom the New Year promises nothing but uncertainty and a certain amount of terror is that of a young man from Portuguese Goa and his American wife and children. The natives of Goa are East Indians, and East Indians, though beloved by St. Francis Xavier, are inadmissible to the United States because they are of a race ineligible to citizenship. When 14-year-old Salvador stepped off the boat on which he had sailed as cabin boy 16 years ago, such matters as U. S. immigration laws were his least concern. Salvador decided he had reached the promised land and stayed. Seven years ago he married here and now there are four children and a fifth one is expected. But America did not, after all, prove too kind to the young Portuguese East Indian, who walked the streets many a day looking for work and not finding it. Finally the family had to accept relief. The next thing immigration inspectors were questioning Salvador about his entry to the United States. If it were only a question of illegal entry, the N. C. W. C. Bureau could help Salvador to adjust his status, since he has an American wife and children. But Salvador is "of a race ineligible to citizenship," and that means that he *must* be deported and that he never, never can be granted permission to return to the United States.

Salvador and his wife love one another dearly, and Salvador is devoted to his children. They cannot bear the thought of separation, and Salvador's wife is willing to go with him even to far-off and unknown Goa. But the United States cannot deport an American woman and American children, nor can this Government provide transportation for their voluntary departure, although it does for that of alien wives and children who wish to accompany a deported husband and father. Salvador and his wife have no money at all.

Salvador was to be deported on January 18, but just in time the N. C. W. C. Bureau of Immigration begged for a stay. They told the immigration authorities the pitiful tale of this family's devotion and asked a few weeks in which to try to persuade the relief agency that it will be the part of economy to pay the steamship fares of the wife and children. The stay was granted, but whether the wife and children sail with Salvador or he leaves without them is for the next month and a half to determine.

Searches in Poland. The Bureau has received a good many requests since last September for news of relatives and friends in Poland. These have all been referred to the American Red Cross, which in turn transmits them to the International Red Cross in Geneva, through which investigations and searches are made to learn the fate of Poles caught by the invading German and Russian armies. When persons in Poland regarding whom information is asked are shown to be American citizens, the State Department conducts the investigations.

The thought of Poland recalls the 48 Polish refugees who sailed on the ill-fated *Athenia*, bound for Canada and who, following their rescue, were brought to New York, where they were admitted in transit to Canada and sent on their way, the N. C. W. C. referring them for the usual Catholic follow-up attention in their diocese of destination.

INTERESTS of CATHOLIC YOUTH

As Reported
by the
N. C. W. C. Youth Bureau

Catholic Youth Bureau.—The N. C. W. C. Youth Bureau—established by the Administrative Board in February, 1937—functions as a central clearing house, with a priest-director, under the Executive Department, and works in close cooperation with the other departments of the N. C. W. C. The statement of general objectives as outlined in the booklet explaining the N. C. W. C. reads:

"It is a fact-finding agency on the whole field of youth work, and a means to coordinate such work; to assist the Ordinaries in the establishment and promotion of authorized youth organizations; to facilitate exchange of information and programs on youth activities; and to keep in touch with Government agencies so that Catholic associations and programs may profit from available information and benefits."

Directors of Youth Organizations.—"A youth organization is ordinarily very complex and consequently it is indispensable that there be only one director to control all operations and guide all activities towards the essential end—the Christian education and formation of youth." This statement is taken from an article which appeared in the January issue of the *Acolyte* (published monthly by Our Sunday Visitor Press, Huntington, Ind., for the clergy). This article, entitled "The Director of a Youth Organization," was prepared by Reverend Francis LeBrun, who translated and adapted it from the French text (*Nos Jeunes*). It should prove helpful to clergy leaders of young people's societies and clubs. It not only deals with the function, authority, contacts, influence, preparation, and spirit of the director, but emphasizes dangers to be avoided.

Two particular points are stressed—first, priest directors should depersonalize their interest in the organization if the organization is to have any permanent value. Secondly, care should be exercised lest the priest director be distinguished from the parish priest. Youth groups are a definite part of parochial life and in keeping with the traditional practice of the Church, the parish priest is the genuine leader of every youth association.

Scouting for Catholics.—While the Boy Scouts of America is a non-sectarian agency, this does not mean that religion is excluded in the development of its program. During February, the Thirtieth Anniversary of Scouting is being celebrated, and particular stress is being placed upon the Twelfth Scout Law—"A Scout Is Reverent."

Emphasis is being placed upon spiritual values at this particular time because leaders throughout the world are conscious of the struggle between spiritual and materialistic forces. Catholic youth leaders interested in the Scout program will find the manual—"Scouting for Catholics: Adding the Supernatural," a particular help in the development of the boy's spiritual life. This manual was prepared by the Reverend Louis B. Barcelo, C.S.C., and the Reverend Edward Fuller, S.J. It may be obtained from the Boy Scout headquarters, 2 Park Avenue, New York City. (Price, 25c.)

American Youth Congress.—The A. Y. C., which was launched in 1934 in New York City, has provoked considerable comment. Catholic youth leaders and youth groups have refrained from collaboration. The reasons for this abstention and an interpretation of the Youth Congress, were treated in a series of four articles written last Decem-

ber by the director of the N. C. W. C. Youth Bureau which appeared in many Catholic papers through the medium of the *N. C. W. C. News Service*.

Leaders of the A. Y. C. are making every effort to counteract the objections raised to the Congress set-up. In this connection it may be of interest to direct attention to the Citizenship Institute under the auspices of the American Youth Congress scheduled for Washington, D. C., February 9 to 12. During these three days, emphasis will be placed upon the necessity of using the ballot and an attempt will be made to interpret for the youthful delegates the function of government. Federal administrators will explain what the various departments in the Government are equipped to do. Congressmen will listen to a discussion of youth's problems. Young people will tell Government officials what it can do to meet youth's needs. Other items on the agenda include a discussion of jobs and training, civil liberties and citizenship, and a general discussion of a proposed citizenship campaign.

Youth leaders generally are naturally interested in the topics included on the agenda of this Institute. We cannot hazard a guess as to what will actually be accomplished, but we can point out this fact—that a splendid body of literature is being developed under Catholic auspices, which literature could be used very effectively by local youth leaders and groups in the training of Catholics along the lines of citizenship. The Social Action Department of the N. C. W. C., and the Commission on American Citizenship of the Catholic University of America, point the way to those who are genuinely interested. Despite the unusual publicity given to the American Youth Congress' Citizenship Institute, we are not convinced that Catholic youth groups, organizations, and agencies need look to the American Youth Congress for inspiration and guidance.

American Student Union.—The American Student Union was formed in 1935 at Columbus, Ohio. It is a mixed federation of Communist, Socialist, and Liberal student clubs. According to "Youth-Serving Organizations," a publication of the American Youth Commission, the American Student Union is a left-wing organization for college and high school students. It was organized as a successor to the National Student League and the Student League for Industrial Democracy.

In 1937, the N. C. W. C. Social Action Department published a "Survey on Communism in the United States," in which mention is made of the American Student Union, with brief reference to its membership and activities.

During the past four years, leaders of the American Student Union have denied that the Union was a transmission belt for Communism. Despite these denials at the annual convention of the A. S. U. which was held at Madison, Wis., in December of 1939, the delegates clarified the situation and clearly indicated the domination on the part of a Communistic leadership.

Those who have been called "red-baiters" because of their opposition to the American Student Union cannot overlook the fact that the delegates at the Madison meeting of the American Student Union, voted 322 to 29 against a resolution which would have branded Russia as an aggressor against Finland; adopted resolutions condemning the United States for selling Navy planes to Finland; and denounced the "moral" embargo against Russia.

MONTH *by* MONTH

CATHOLIC ACTION

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

"We have grouped together, under the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the various agencies by which the cause of religion is furthered. Each of these, continuing its own special work in its chosen field, will now derive additional support through general cooperation."

—From the 1919 Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the U. S.

N. C. W. C. Administrative Board

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General Secretary

CHARLES A. MCMAHON
Editor

Opinions expressed in articles published in this magazine are to be regarded as those of the respective contributors. They do not necessarily carry with them the formal approval of the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Cardinal Pizzardo Thanks N. C. W. C. For Cooperation with Catholic Action Office

LAST month there was received at N. C. W. C. headquarters a most cordial message of greeting from His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Pizzardo, president of the Central Office of Catholic Action. The letter, addressed to the Right Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the N. C. W. C., conveyed to Monsignor Ready thanks for cooperation with the Catholic Action Office during the year and extended good wishes to all members of the N. C. W. C. staff. The letter reads as follows:

"I beg you to convey my very best wishes to all the members of the National Catholic Welfare Conference staff. To you I send my most cordial thanks for the kind way in which you have cooperated with the Catholic Action Office during the past year. May God grant you health and happiness during the coming year, and give you the strength and grace to labour with even greater fruit for the extension of the King-

dom of Christ and for the salvation of souls.

"With my renewed thanks and with sentiments of the highest esteem, I remain,

"Yours faithfully in Christ,

"CARDINAL PIZZARDO."

N. C. C. M. Executive Sets Straight Objector to U. S.-Vatican Diplomatic Relations

REMINDER that the Vatican is a State and that were the United States to resume diplomatic relations with the Vatican there would be no question involving the Church-State issue is contained in a letter from Edward J. Heffron, executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Men, published in the *Washington Post*.

Mr. Heffron's letter, written in response to another from a reader who expressed fear that the appointment of Myron C. Taylor as the President's representative at the Holy See might be a step toward union of Church and State, said:

"A letter signed by James M. Russell appearing in *The Post* of December 28 expresses the fear that the appointment of Mr. Taylor as personal representative of the President of the United States to the Vatican is a step toward union of Church and State. May I call attention to the fact that the Vatican is a State, whose sovereign is head of the Catholic Church, just as Great Britain is a State whose ruler is head of the Anglican church?

"Even if this nation should give full diplomatic recognition to the Vatican as a sovereign State, as 38 other countries have already done, it would no more imply a recognition of the religion of the head of that State than diplomatic recognition of Great Britain constitutes recognition of the Anglican church, of which King George VI is the head.

"Bearing in mind this simple distinction, based on fact, fears that our constitutional liberties may be jeopardized even by complete recognition of a State as a state (regardless of other considerations) will appear to be quite groundless."

N. C. C. W. Executive Committee Expresses Satisfaction to President on Taylor Appointment

THE Executive Committee of the National Council of Catholic Women has sent a letter to President Roosevelt expressing appreciation of the appointment of Myron C. Taylor as the President's representative at the Holy See as "a symbol and a hopeful omen of the collaboration of forces for good over the face of the earth." Following is the text of the message:

"In the firm belief that the re-establishment of peace in our day is a task to which the duty of charity urges us, in the further conviction that the united effort of men of good will cannot but be at length effective, the Executive Committee of the National Council of Catholic Women, in session in Washington, respectfully offers Your Excellency this expression of its approval and appreciation of the appointment of Mr. Myron Taylor as Ambassador Extraordinary to His Holiness Pope Pius XII, as a symbol and a hopeful omen of the collaboration of forces for good over the earth."

The message was signed by Mrs. J. W. McCollum, of Gainesville, Fla., president of the N. C. C. W., and four other members of the Executive Committee.

with the N. C. W. C.

"The Church and Social Order" Subject of Important Pronouncement To Be Issued During February By Administrative Bishops, N. C. W. C.

ON ASH Wednesday, February 7, there will issue from the Archbishops and Bishops of the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board a statement of some 7,500 words carrying the title "The Church and Social Order."

The statement is expected to be the most important Catholic pronouncement of its kind in this country since the "Bishops' Program of Social Reconstruction." The year 1939, the twentieth anniversary of the "Bishops' Program," saw ten of its eleven principal recommendations and proposals either wholly or partly translated into fact.

IT IS interesting to note that, in the second Encyclical of his Pontificate, directed "To the Church in the United States," to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Hierarchy in the United States, His Holiness Pope Pius XII said:

"What a proud vaunt it will be for the American people, by nature inclined to magnificent undertakings and to liberality, if they untie the knotty and difficult social question by following the sure paths illuminated by the light of the Gospel and thus lay the basis of a happier age!"

PROJECTED at this time, the forthcoming statement is in a sense a response on the part of the American Archbishops and Bishops to the suggestion contained in the Sovereign Pontiff's inspiring words. In the same Encyclical, Pope Pius XII said it was a source of joy to him to know that the Encyclicals "Quadragesimo Anno" and "Rerum Novarum," "in which is indicated the solution of the social question in accordance with the postulates of the Gospel and of the eternal philosophy," are "the object in the United States of careful and prolonged consideration on the part of some men of keener intellect whose generous wish pushes them on towards social restoration and the strengthening of the bonds of love amongst men."

THE statement will devote separate sections to points around which most controversy centers today: "Ownership," "Property and Labor," "Security," "Wages," and "Establishment of Social Order." On each of these points the statement will set forth the Catholic teaching in the matter, following closely the pronouncements of the Popes.

N. C. W. C. Executives Express Catholic View at White House "Training for Youth" Conference

ATTENDANT upon the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy were a number of Catholic leaders, including the following representation from the National Catholic Welfare Conference: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, general secretary, N. C. W. C.; Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan, director, N. C. W. C. Social Action Department; Rev. George Johnson, director, N. C. W. C. Department of Education; Miss Agnes G. Regan, executive secretary, National Council of Catholic Women; Rev. Lucian Lauerman, director, National Catholic School of Social Service, and Bruce M. Mohler, director, N. C. W. C. Bureau of Immigration.

Opening the discussion at the Group Meeting on "Religion and Children in a Democracy," Monsignor Ready said his Conference "gives hope for tomorrow." "If we accept the test of history," he declared, "we will conclude that man's divine-given gift, reason, fashioned democracy, but God's light originated it and sustains it. . . . The issue that confronts us is how most effectively to reach those who persevere through environment or indifference or straitened circumstances have no religious educational opportunity. This Conference implies that, with the great human heritage, equally there should go the knowledge of a religious heritage as best grounding and reinforcing the structure of our democracy."

One recommendation of the Conference was that practical steps be taken "to make more available to children and youth through education the resources of religion as an indispensable factor in the democratic way of life and in the development of personal and social integrity." In this view President Roosevelt concurred when he said that, in view of the large number of children receiving no religious instruction, "it is important to consider how provisions can best be made for religious training."

Cincinnati Catechetical Congress Proceedings To be Published Early in March, 1940

THE Proceedings of the Fifth National Catechetical Congress of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, held at Cincinnati last fall, will be published in early March, the National Center of the Confraternity announces from N. C. W. C. headquarters.

The volume will include more than 90 speeches delivered at the Congress on adult religious education; religion in the home; religious instruction of Catholic children and youth attending public schools, and the apostolate to non-Catholics.

Msgr. Ready, Emphasizing Moral Guidance, Contributes Foreword to "The American Trilogy"

"OUR republic needs to be renewed in the determination to live by the precepts of genuine morality," the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, writes in his contribution to a symposium that constitutes the foreword to "The American Trilogy," published last month in New York by Samuel Graydon.

The volume presents a grouping of the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence and Washington's Farewell Address, with which is included "Washington's Prayer for Our Country."

In his contribution to the symposium foreword, Monsignor Ready states: "The historic documents defining the principles of our American society were written in the spirit of a religious faith which taught such wisdom. Our study of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence emphasizes the necessity of such faith today if our institutions of liberty and justice are to endure."

THE CONFRATERNITY and CATHOLIC ACTION

Some Thoughts on the Meaning of Catholic Action. The familiar more than the strange needs repeated definition. What we think we know best we often find most difficult to explain. Catholic Action is a familiar term, so familiar that we take for granted that everyone understands its meaning. Our complacency is jolted rudely when, as in a particular case, a zealous Catholic laywoman who is doing an excellent work of teaching catechism in the parish Confraternity says: "I would not give up the Confraternity work, but I would like to do something for Catholic Action."

When it was thought necessary to define Catholic Action, Pope Pius XI defined it as "the participation of the laity in the apostolate of the Hierarchy." What is the apostolate of the Hierarchy? It is that all-embracing mission given to the twelve apostles, the predecessors of the Bishops, in the command of Christ: "Going, therefore, teach ye all nations."

Such a mission includes every form of apostolate, for souls are sought and won in many ways. In carrying out his mission, a Bishop may call upon his laity to assist in teaching the catechism; to work for social justice; to combat social evils, such as divorce and birth control; to exercise vigilance that a nation's laws do not mitigate against human rights and the salvation of souls. There are many apostolates of Catholic Action. Some, however, are more a part of the Bishops' Mission than others. In his *Conferences on Catholic Action*, Cardinal Pizzardo said: "The more closely, the more intimately, any activity participates in the nature, in the objective of the apostolate of the Hierarchy, the more will it deserve the name of Catholic Action."

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine is an apostolate of Catholic Action intimately associated with the mission of the Bishops, since it has for its work the teaching of religion. Like all apostolates of Catholic Action, it is under the direction and authority of the Bishop of each diocese. It is a collective effort of the laity, as its workers are organized in a parish unit and combine their endeavors in a five-point missionary program promoted within parish boundaries and directed by the pastor.

Objectives of the Parish Confraternity: 1. Religious instruction of Catholic children in public schools through school year religious instruction classes, religious vacation schools and, in rural sections, through religious correspondence courses.

2. Religious instruction of Catholic youth in secular high schools.

3. Adult religious education through religious discussion clubs.

4. Religious education in the home.

5. Apostolate to non-Catholics.

There are two types of membership in the parish Confraternity, *active* and *associate*. Active members promote the above five-point program through the committees of the parish unit: Teachers, Fishers (Home Visitors), Helpers, Discussion Club Leaders, Parent-Educators and the Committee on the Apostolate to Non-Catholics. Each committee has a lay chairman responsible to the parish officers, who are also lay persons. The pastor, or his appointee, is the director of the unit. Active members give at least one hour a week in service. Those who cannot take an active part in the Confraternity program, but who wish to contribute toward its support, are known as associate members. Both memberships pray daily for the apostolate of the Confraternity.

A parish Confraternity is in an unique position to give valuable service to other Catholic Action organizations and

● Call for Lay Workers ● Objectives in the Parish Jobs for Junior Members

Catholic activities. Through its committees it may supplement, for instance, the work of Catholic immigration committees by cooperating with the pastor in introducing the new families into the parish life.

Through its adult religious discussion clubs, which afford foundational knowledge of Catholic doctrine and a facility in expressing such knowledge, the parish Confraternity may serve as a feeder for memberships in Catholic Evidence Guilds. These are but two instances in which the parish Confraternity may supplement or prepare the foundation for other works of Catholic Action.

The five-point program of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine also opens wider avenues of service for those national Catholic organizations which, through a system of committees, offer their members opportunities for various types of Catholic Action. The National Council of Catholic Men and The National Council of Catholic Women present the Confraternity program to their affiliated organizations with admirable results both for the Confraternity and for the programming of their own activities.

The fears of the zealous lay apostle, referred to at the beginning of this article, who wanted to continue her Confraternity work, but was eager to do something for Catholic Action, may be dispelled by the words of the Holy Father in the recent Encyclical *Sertum Laetitiae*. In this Encyclical Letter to the Church in the United States, His Holiness numbers the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine among those "associations of the laity" whose "fruits are the cause of joy and they bear the promise of still more joyful harvests in the future."

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A Job for Junior Members. The junior members of the parish Confraternity compose the Helpers' Committee. The committee's work is peculiarly adapted to the tastes and energies of boys and girls of high school age who want action, personal contacts and results. Experience in religious vacation schools has shown that these boys and girls will collect holy pictures, Christmas cards, colored paper tin foil, etc., for use in project work in the vacation schools. In many instances they conduct the project class, keep records for the teacher, and arrange transportation for teachers and pupils.

What often happens, however, is that the Helpers' Committee functions spasmodically. There is an urgent call for its members before and during the vacation school. Then follow months of inactivity. Although the distribution of Catholic literature is suggested by the National Center of the Confraternity as a work for the Helpers, the suggestion has been carried out in only a few instances. Press month provides an opportunity for the parish Confraternity director to organize his junior members into a year-around Helpers' Committee.

The Helpers, organized into neighborhood teams, collect Catholic papers, pamphlets, magazines and books from members of the parish. System in distribution should be observed. If magazines are redistributed the same periodical should be sent to the same family regularly and as soon after their publication date as they can be obtained.

WITH OUR CATHOLIC LAYMEN

NATIONAL COUNCIL of CATHOLIC MEN

A Section

Devoted to the Interests
of the

LAST month, in a preliminary way, CATHOLIC ACTION began its metamorphosis from what had been chiefly a combination of "magazine of general reader interest" and "magazine of record" to what it is hoped will now become chiefly a service organ, without, however, completely relinquishing its former characteristics. This should make it of far greater use to lay organizations of men and women, as well as to the clergy who have lay activities in their charge. As part of this general overhauling, therefore, the *N. C. C. M. Bulletin* is now incorporated in CATHOLIC ACTION.

It is hoped that the various lay groups will find the whole organ, particularly the columns allocated to the various N. C. W. C. departments, of genuine usefulness. These departmental contributions are not intended to be merely interesting reading. They are to be *informative* and *suggestive*. For that reason, we urge all N. C. C. M. affiliates to examine this and succeeding issues very carefully and to let us have the benefit of your suggestions and criticisms. We can then take the points up with the respective departmental contributors and with the general Editor—and as a consequence there should eventuate a gradual month-to-month improvement in the service features of CATHOLIC ACTION that should eventually make it of invaluable assistance to all laymen and laywomen.

Now please read the story immediately following:

In order to avoid duplication of material in other parts of CATHOLIC ACTION, to inform new readers as to the contents of this section, and to set up a guide for the future, we shall set down here a description of what this particular section is intended to cover. First of all, the pages devoted to the National Council of Catholic Men will reflect the character of N. C. C. M.,

its aims, functions, and activities. N. C. C. M. was designed to federate Catholic societies and groups of men in a common, unified agency or council and to coordinate, promote, and assist their activities under the direction of the Bishops. The progress of N. C. C. M. in this direction will have a leading place in these pages. This will be exemplified chiefly by stories of the organization of diocesan councils by the Bishops in all parts of the country, with the assistance of Dr. John G. Bowen, N. C. C. M. field secretary; and of the affiliation with N. C. C. M. of existing parish, regional, and national organizations.

One function of the National Council of Catholic Men is to be the point of contact with the National Catholic Welfare Conference for Catholic laymen's organizations. Through N. C. C. M. it is intended that the services of all divisions of the N. C. W. C. should be channeled out to the laymen's societies. Accordingly one of the aims of this section will be to present from time to time brief references to the information and program services of the various N. C. W. C. departments and bureaus available to N. C. C. M. member organizations. Because most of the departments and bureaus will have regular space in CATHOLIC ACTION, these references will usually be mere references in the literal sense, rather than detailed statements.

The Council is intended also to be a central clearing house for information regarding Catholic laymen's activities. Accordingly, this section will record, in necessarily limited degree, the plans and accomplishments of lay societies in their work for the Church. There are at this time 1,200 laymen's organizations, national, regional, state-wide, diocesan, city-wide, and parochial, actively affiliated with N. C. C. M.

It is our aim also to present material that will aid Catholic lay organizations to work more effectively in their own localities. While this is an important aim of the whole magazine, we know that there will be opportunities to carry such suggestions here without duplication of other sections.

This section will report the work in the interest of N. C. C. M. of its episcopal chairmen, its officers and directors, and will describe the activities of the headquarters office and its personnel. These will be exemplified in the co-operation given in furthering the aims of all approved movements in the interest of the Church and of society at large, and their participation in national movements involving moral questions. It will also report their work in opposing un-Christian movements and legislation such as the campaign of a year ago to lift the Spanish embargo, efforts to pass legislation favoring birth control, etc. And it will report letters to editors and protests of various sorts.

In 1929, N. C. C. M. established a Catholic Evidence Bureau as a national service agency in the field of Catholic exposition and defense, and as an aid to local groups active in this work. Since that time a separate section of the N. C. C. M. monthly organ has been devoted to the purposes of the Bureau, and we shall continue this practice here.

The Catholic Hour, most widely known N. C. C. M. activity, was inaugurated on March 2, 1930, and was really an outgrowth of the Catholic Evidence Bureau. As a result

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(Department of Lay Organizations, National Catholic Welfare Conference)

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of experience in producing the Catholic Hour, N. C. C. M. recently launched a Catholic Radio Bureau, designed to interest local organizations and individuals in producing their own programs and to assist them in inaugurating and conducting them. A section descriptive of the Catholic Hour programs and the Radio Bureau will be a regular feature of this N. C. C. M. division of CATHOLIC ACTION. What this Bureau and the Catholic Evidence Bureau have to offer is indicated in the space devoted to those bureaus in this issue.

Finally, we shall undertake in these columns to spread an understanding of the idea of Catholic Action and to encourage participation in it in every way.

The National Council of Catholic Men has taken an active interest in public health work for some time. The Council's executive secretary is a member of the National Anti-Syphilis Committee, and he appeared at the U. S. Senate committee hearings in 1938 in support of federal legislation that resulted in the inauguration of programs of research, treatment, and cure of syphilis and gonorrhea by state officers in cooperation with the U. S. Public Health Service under the direction of Surgeon General Thomas Parran.

When the Public Health Service recently revised and republished a manual intended for high school teachers entitled *High Schools and Sex Education*, Mr. Heffron took exception to various sections that gave it an amoral, if not immoral, bent. Writing to Dr. Parran, he stated that he was confident that, while the Public Health Service is interested only in the health phases of sex education, it would not wish to sacrifice moral or spiritual values to that end; and certainly it would not want to condemn the moral attitudes and principles of millions of our population, Catholic and non-Catholic. Since the full text of this letter was published in the January issue of the N. C. C. M. *Monthly Bulletin*, we submit for the information of our readers the following letter received from Surgeon General Parran on January 16:

"I wish to thank you for your thoughtful letter of criticism on *High Schools and Sex Education*. This reply has been delayed because consideration was already being given to a new edition of this bulletin. A small number of other criticisms had been received which dealt with other aspects of the subject and it was thought better to delay the answer in order to give careful consideration to all the suggestions which we had received.

"In the field of sex education, perhaps more so than in any other aspect of health education, it is difficult to secure unqualified endorsements from all readers. The points to which you take exception have not hitherto been commented upon by anyone else. Your comments, however, seem to me to be on the whole very constructive and I am pleased to tell you that in a revision of the pamphlet your suggestions have been incorporated or changes have been made in the text which I think will meet your criticisms.

"I appreciate very much your interest in this important matter."

Formal affiliation of the national headquarters of the Holy Name Society with the National Council of Catholic Men was effected recently by the Rev. Harry Graham, O.P.,

**National H. N. S. Office
Affiliates with N. C. C. M.**

national director of the Holy Name Society. Although local and regional Holy Name Societies have been members of N. C. C. M. for many years, the headquarters had not previously been affiliated. We are confident that there will be many fruitful opportunities for cooperation during the coming year.

In two dioceses at least, the Holy Name Society is the framework of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Men. In these instances, the society is charged with the personal sanctification of the men of the parish, and other existing organizations or committees of the parish councils are charged with other tasks. Thus the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is responsible for charitable works, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for conducting study clubs, religious vocation schools, etc., and a special committee of the Council for youth work. Even where this arrangement is not in effect, the centuries-old traditions of the Holy Name Society are urged upon all and cooperation in the spiritual activities of the Society is strongly advocated.

Catholic Press Month is fully as significant to laymen's organizations as to others. Support of the Press was one of the nine activities specifically mentioned by Pope Pius XII as works of Catholic Action.

Importance of the Press To Lay Organizations

It was in fact a men's group that the Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, addressed his frequently quoted mandate: "The Catholic Press is increasing as it ought to do. Wherefore let it be supported by a wider diffusion and a better propaganda."

Furthermore, on another occasion mentioned by Msgr. Civardi in his *Manual of Catholic Action*, His Holiness explicitly stated that the Press is one of the most important functions of Catholic Action (speech to the Catholic Journalists, July 26, 1929).

The task, as outlined by Msgr. Civardi, consists of educational work, of efforts to increase circulation, and also of preparing and supporting a distinct Catholic Action Press. Publications of this character, of which this organ is an example, are intended to reflect the thought and direction of the Hierarchy and the leadership of lay directors, and to inspire others to cooperation in their work. Diocesan papers, books, magazines, and pamphlets are the publications that make up the Catholic Press generally. Projects therefore that emphasize their importance and make them better known, that create a demand for the information which can be secured only in their pages, that stress their importance in molding Catholic thought and action—these are strongly recommended during Catholic Press Month.

Accordingly, we wish to call attention to the suggestions for action in behalf of the Press that are given on the back cover of this issue of CATHOLIC ACTION. It is certain that during this month no more effective and worthwhile work could be undertaken. The Knights of Columbus have made it the major activity of the Order throughout February, and we strongly urge all organizations in affiliation with N. C. C. M. to join in this campaign.

During the month of January, men of the Diocese of Charleston, S. C., have been setting up a Diocesan Council of Catholic Men, working under the direction of the Most

**Charleston Diocesan
Council Formed**

Rev. Emmet M. Walsh, Bishop of Charleston and assistant episcopal chairman of the N. C. C. M. Dr. John G. Bowen, N. C. C. M. field secretary, covered the larger cities of the Diocese during the month and assisted in the erection of parish councils and in projecting plans for their activities. Following completion of his work in South Carolina, Dr. Bowen will go to Cleveland, Ohio, where he will assist in setting up one parish council in each of the Deaneries of the Diocese. This is preliminary to organization of the entire Diocese, which is scheduled for a later date. The Right Rev. Msgr. Floyd L. Begin will be in charge of the work, having been designated by Archbishop Schrembs as the N. C. C. M. diocesan director for Cleveland.

Other dioceses in which Dr. Bowen expects to work in the near future are Grand Rapids, Mich.; San Francisco and Los Angeles, Calif., and Helena and Great Falls, Mont.

THE CATHOLIC RADIO BUREAU

IT IS the aim of the N. C. C. M. Catholic Radio Bureau to be able to serve Catholic organizations and individuals in everything relating to radio. It tells Catholic groups how to go about getting free station time, how to get their local stations to carry such network programs as the Catholic Hour, how to seek the removal of objectionable programs from the schedules of local stations, how to plan and produce local programs, offers on request the use of scripts for programs on religious and social subjects, and serves as a clearing house for information on Catholic radio activities.

What This Bureau Has to Offer

We intend to offer two additional services in the name of the Catholic Radio Bureau—the first, dramatic scripts, in the near future, and the other, electrical transcriptions at a more remote date. We know that some Catholic dramatic programs have been produced and expect that the broadcasters will be willing to make the scripts available for use in other parts of the country. We also are prepared to produce electrical transcriptions of programs similar to the Catholic Hour. However, such a series of recordings is expensive to produce and has proved beyond our means to date.

In addition to suggested scripts, a certain amount of literature invaluable in producing Catholic radio programs is available. This includes a publication written by our executive secretary on *Radio and the Rights of Religion*. In Part I of this pamphlet is set forth a statement of the positive right that will be of value especially to groups that are planning to ask for radio time from their local station. In this part is described also how large a field for development of the radio apostolate yet remains to be worked; and an explanation is given of just what needs to be done to get it under cultivation. In Part II, dealing with the negative rights of religion, Mr. Heffron examines the question of freedom of speech on the radio, and shows very clearly and in detail why objectionable broadcasts such as those of "Judge" Rutherford have no rightful place on the air.

A mimeographed publication entitled *A Memorandum on Producing Catholic Radio Programs* has also been available to inquirers from the Radio Bureau. It is being revised and enlarged and will again be available for distribution shortly.

Testimony as to the value of the Bureau's services is given in a letter from the Rev. David R. Dunigan, S.J., of Boston College, which we reprint here with the permission of the writer:

Radio Bureau Testimonial

"I am extremely grateful to you for your kindness in sending me such full information on Catholic radio work in

the United States. It would be next to impossible to gather those facts without the assistance of your organization.

"I hope that I may find myself in a position some time to return your great kindness. May I say here that I have had occasion often to make inquiries of state, municipal and private offices and groups throughout the United States, and I have never before experienced the complete cooperation and promptness which I have met from your department."

With the volume of mail being received at present, varying between 25,000 and 30,000 pieces weekly, we will not promise for all requests the promptness met with by Father Dunigan. But we do promise in each case the best effort possible, and we hope to hear from all who can make use of the services of the Bureau.

Friends of the Catholic Hour will be happy to learn that the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, has consented to speak in the Tenth Birthday Program on Sunday, March 3, a program that will mark the completion of ten years on the air. Mr. Louis Kenedy, president of the National Council of Catholic Men, will introduce His Excellency to the Catholic Hour audience. It is an especially happy arrangement, since the Catholic Hour originates in the See of New York, where Archbishop Spellman's predecessor, the beloved Cardinal Hayes, inaugurated the Catholic Hour ten years ago. His words in the first program on Sunday, March 2, 1930, have served as a chart and compass for the Catholic Hour throughout its ten years of weekly broadcasts.

Archbishop Spellman To Speak in Tenth Anniversary Program

The Right Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, current speaker in the Catholic Hour and the first regular speaker in the program, will also deliver an address. Jessica Dragonette, well known to virtually all radio listeners, will be the featured singer with the Paulist Choristers on that day. The Choristers, who have provided the music for the Catholic Hour throughout the entire ten years, will be augmented for the Tenth Birthday Program by an NBC concert orchestra, and both will be conducted by the Rev. William J. Finn, C.S.P. This year, incidentally, begins the second quarter century of the life of the Choristers under the direction of Father Finn. They were organized by him in Chicago in 1914.

Appropriately enough, Miss Dragonette will be the soloist in the number that officially opened the Catholic Hour ten years before. This is the cantata, "Hear My Prayer," by Mendelssohn, in which the Choristers and orchestra also will be heard.

The National Broadcasting Company is making available its largest studio, 8-H, for the event, and an additional half hour of music will be presented for the benefit of the studio audience. This will occupy the half-hour period before the program goes on the air, viz., 5.30 to 6 p. m.

In his Catholic Hour address on January 7, the first in his 1940 series, Monsignor Sheen made a moving plea for a return to faith in God and observance of His laws.

Concluding his address, he said that he had prepared a small booklet of prayers which would be sent free to anyone who would write in and ask for it. The final count of the number of persons who, during the following week, accepted that offer is 38,000. The offer was repeated by the announcer on the following Sundays of the month and the total figure for acceptances during January is 111,000. The addresses in which the offer has been made are being gathered in one pamphlet, which will sell for approximately 10 cents singly, \$5.50 in 100 lots, plus postage.

Beginning on February 11, Msgr. Sheen will inaugurate the second group of his 1940 Catholic Hour addresses—an entirely separate series from the first—which will be entitled *The Seven Last Words and the Seven Virtues*. This will consist of eight addresses, including one on

Post Card Announcements Of New Sheen Series

Good Friday, at a time and over a network yet to be determined, and including the Tenth Birthday Program on March 3, in which Msgr. Sheen will be one of the speakers.

Post card announcements of this group of radio sermons have been prepared and are available from this office on request. The cards constitute a most effective means of

giving information about the series to friends or others in your community who you think might be interested. Each card has a space for the name and address of sender and addressee and for 1-cent postage. All cards must be addressed by the sender and stamped with 1-cent stamps.

Similar post cards were made available at the beginning of the first series by Msgr. Sheen, and a total of 73,000 of these and of more detailed circulars were distributed. We hope that the demand for the cards and circulars descriptive of the new series will be even larger.

This section of CATHOLIC ACTION will note not only items pertaining to the Catholic Hour and the Catholic Radio Bureau but also all matters relating to Catholic radio here and abroad. Hence, organizations sponsoring or producing Catholic radio programs are urged to send in occasional notes. These will be interesting and helpful to others engaged in the same work, and will contribute to the valuable record of Catholic radio activities that we are assembling here at N. C. C. M. headquarters.

Your News Is Solicited

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE BUREAU

THE Catholic Evidence Bureau was authorized by the Cincinnati Convention of the National Council of Catholic Men in 1928 and was established shortly thereafter with the approval of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

What This Bureau Offers Since its creation the Bureau has accumulated a valuable file of information on lay activities in the field of Catholic evidence; has published the only complete history of the American Catholic Evidence Guilds; has successfully made remonstrance with erring editors and publishers (getting, in most cases, what it rightfully asked for) has assisted hundreds of non-Catholic inquirers with answers to questions, books, and pamphlets; and has endeavored to help in every kind of apologetical activity in which its assistance was asked.

In addition three members of the N. C. C. M. staff have themselves taken an active part in the work of the Catholic Evidence Guild of Washington, Mr. Heffron and Dr. Bowen having been active in its organization in 1932. Mr. Heffron also has served on the board of directors of the National Catholic Evidence Conference and Dr. Bowen is at present vice president of the Conference.

The Bureau has endeavored always to increase active interest in evidence work and this also has been an aim of the N. C. C. M. field secretary in his assistance given to lay groups throughout the country.

It will be the aim of this section of CATHOLIC ACTION to present information helpful in evidence work and to publish news of all evidence activities, whether through the medium of the press or the spoken word. We shall be happy to receive stories of this nature from our readers for publication herein and to answer all requests for information and suggestions relating to evidence work.

Both in its manner of approaching the subject and in its content, *Birth Control, The Case for the Catholic*, an article written for the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine by the Rev.

Publications of Interest to Laymen Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., is the best brief statement of the Catholic position on birth control that we have seen. Fortunately it has been reprinted by Mission Church Press (1545 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.) at 5c for single copies, \$2.50 per 100, and is thus suitable for widespread distribution. It is of particular value to officers of societies who thus are able at reasonable cost to inform their members and friends on this most important subject.

Peace, the Fruit of Justice, a pamphlet containing the five Catholic Hour addresses on this subject by Monsignor Sheen, will be off the press about the 20th of February. Based on figures to date, it is anticipated that this radio series will have drawn a record audience mail of 150,000 letters and cards and will thus be assured a huge circulation in pamphlet form as well. It is expected that individual copies will be priced at 10 cents, and 100 copies at \$5.50, plus postage.

Men charged with increasing the attendance of fellow parishioners at lay retreats will find a most effective aid in a new Catholic Truth Society leaflet entitled: *What is a Retreat?* These leaflets are published at 50 for 12 cents by the Catholic Truth Society, 38/40 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, and may also be available through the International Catholic Truth Society, 407 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

For an introductory work on social subjects, we recommend without qualification *A Course of Social Study*, by Henry Somerville, published by The Catholic Register, Toronto, Canada, for 15 cents. One cannot expect to get a full foundation for study of social subjects in one pamphlet, but we are confident that this publication comes as close to that achievement as is possible. The first five of its 19 chapter headings are: "What Social Science Is"; "The Meaning of Moral"; "Human Society"; "The State"; and "State Authority Limited." Mr. Somerville explains his terms as he goes along, and employs great clarity of language and logical subject order. Discussion topics are given after each chapter.

That the Legion of Mary is first of all an apostolic organization is shown in the annual report of the Curia operating in the Archdiocese of Boston. The results recorded there, through the instrumentality of the Legion of Mary, were: 535 adults returned to Mass and the Sacraments; 66 marriages validated; 185 children baptized; 124 children received First Holy Communion; and 1,419 children recruited for Sunday School. Thirty-two adults and 29 children were received into the Church and 66 are under instruction.

Legion of Mary In the U. S. The Legion is now organized in nearly all parts of the United States as the result of the work of three organizers who have been busy here during recent years. Headquarters for the Legion are at Immaculata House, 37 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin, Ireland. During its 17 years, it has spread to nearly all parts of the world.

Purgatory is frequently the subject of questions put to speakers of the Catholic Evidence Guild by Protestants in attendance at the Guild's outdoor meetings. It is also one of the most popular subjects for Guild talks. Guild speakers will find it exceedingly worthwhile, therefore, to be able to refer to a treatise on Purgatory written by a layman, St. Thomas More, in the year 1528. His work is entitled *Supplication of Souls*, and was written in response to attacks on the doctrine that were made at that time. Speakers will be especially interested also in consulting a work written by St. Catherine of Genoa on the same subject. St. Catherine, of course, had the advantage of being able to write about what had been revealed in the vision of Purgatory that was granted to her.

C. E. G. Reference Material

"YOU and YOUR WORLD" STUDY CLUB SERIES

V. YOUR LEISURE: With Special Reference to National Catholic Press Month

PUBLISHED herewith is the fifth of the series of eight monthly study club topics to be presented in **CATHOLIC ACTION** under the general title appearing above. The October issue of this magazine presented the first discussion in this series under the title "Your Worth and Your Opportunity"; the November issue, the second, under the title "Your School"; the December issue, "Your Community"; the January issue, "Your Family." Discussions to follow will include the following topics: "Your Government," March; "Your World Outlook," April; and "Your Job," May.

THE N. C. W. C. Study Club Committee, in supplying this timely series, bases its main appeal on the 1919 Pastoral of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States (available at N. C. W. C. Headquarters at 10c per copy). It is hoped that each monthly topic will be discussed in meetings of Catholic organizations affiliated with the N. C. W. C. and that there will result therefrom a widespread distribution of this important pronouncement, issued twenty years ago but as pertinent today as then as a guide to Catholic living and action.

CORRESPONDENCE with regard to this particular outline and other study club material is respectfully invited. Address N. C. W. C. Study Club Committee, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C.

I. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IN A MACHINE ECONOMY

THE New York Committee on the Use of Leisure Time, in a report based on a survey of industrial conditions and leisure-time facilities, reaches the conclusion that America must go forward and contrive ways for the right use of the leisure that modern industry has made possible. The committee finds that the 40-hour week has now been widely adopted, and that the average American soon will have about 77 hours a week for sleeping, eating and personal care; 40 hours for working at making a living; 10 hours for going to and coming from work; and 41 hours that he may call his own—his leisure—for utilizing, within certain conditions, as he will.

"Whether we like it or not," says the committee's report, "Henry Ford probably comes nearer than Ghandi to symbolizing our age. But just because we recognize the inevitability of standardization in material production we must constantly emphasize the need of personal and individual development in human beings."

We might take this summary of the committee to mean that the development of human beings is not to be sought in the machine production of our age, wherein the individual becomes a mere link in an endless chain that passes workman after workman as he steps forward to perform a single task, attaching a bolt or a brace. The handicraft economy of the Middle Ages, which extended into early America, wherein the workman was a skilled artisan who owned his own tools of production and took great pride in the finished product of his own hands, has no place in modern machine production. Personal development must come largely through the right use of leisure.

Strange to say, along with shortening of work hours there is emphasis on increased wages and on the necessity of paying the minimum wage needed for a comfortable family living. It may seem that we are speaking in terms of the fairy-godmother when we combine less work with better pay and a consequent larger share of the necessities and conveniences of life. But the fact is that our capacity to produce material wealth, by means of the machine and the division of labor, seems almost unlimited, and we must find a way to distribute these goods to balance production and consumption.

Only a continuance of war, turning our productive energies into channels of destruction, destroying lives and property, and even civilization itself, can obviate the necessity of increased leisure, and more of the necessities and comforts of life for all.

Which, then, shall it be, war or peace?

II. THE CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEM

Some people profess to see a danger in the greater leisure that is available today. But this view mistakes the true causes of the great moral and social problems of our time—problems that have once again hurled nations into war. The real danger does not lie in increased leisure for more people, but rather in the total present condition of society, in which millions are overworked, millions of others are working for incomes which they really do not need, while many millions remain idle. The problem of unemployment is the principal problem today, rather than the problem of genuine leisure, which can only be considered such when it is earned by hard and conscientious daily work, and attached to a sufficient income.

It is a simple truth, but one too often ignored, that decent food, shelter and clothing, earned through honest work, is the basis of all worthy human life. The want of these things today is the key to our difficulties. Some say, of course, that vast numbers of people, through their own fault, are either not capable of or unwilling to earn a livelihood—an attitude summed up in the terse comment that the unemployed and the poor are undeserving. But this judgment, like so many others made in this field, is based not on human nature as it is, but on human nature distorted by the terrible effects of modern economic life.

The confused and heart-breaking efforts of people to make a living have been largely ignored by the press; for the press, to be successful, must confine itself to the views of people for whom the problem of making a living has largely been solved, and its principal purpose, at all events, is a commercial one. In this the press simply reflects the fierce struggle for a livelihood, manifested by cheap goods, high prices, jazz, sensationalism, by which people hope to make a few dollars and by which what should be a dignified effort at gaining a livelihood is perverted to a grand scramble and a vulgar display.

Should we not expect the morale, integrity, and health of untold millions to be destroyed through generations of grinding poverty, philanthropy without justice, unrewarded toil, and, on the other hand, by conspicuous consumption and fabulous luxury? The astonishing thing, it would seem, is not the shiftlessness of human nature, but its marvelous thrift and driving power, its great accomplishments, in the face of a system of economic life that is destroying it. What wonderful things might we not expect of human life in a more just and equitable environment?

In times of economic stress, such as we are experiencing today, the matter of making a living looms much larger in

our minds than it rightly should. It absorbs all of our attention, and not infrequently causes the keenest worry and anxiety. This is true, though to a lesser degree perhaps, even in periods of normal prosperity. Hence, if our minds could be somewhat relieved on this score, we should see much less of heartbreak and misery and much more of reasonable happiness and personal liberty.

No sensible person expects the millenium. But a realization of human imperfections and waywardness need not end in cynicism and selfishness, as is so often the case, nor prevent us from working toward those ideals of social justice and charity so explicitly set forth in the great social encyclicals of the Popes.

III. A CHRISTIAN ORDERING OF SOCIETY

WHAT is aimed at is a wider distribution of ownership, minimizing class struggle and making for social stability and cooperation. Today this is the great social problem facing mankind; it is doubtless a basic factor in the present war; and, as the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan has pointed out, its solution depends upon acceptance by the comparatively few of a smaller share of our national wealth and distribution of the balance among the masses of the people.

Now, such a spreading of economic wellbeing, if it really be achieved, will result in many astonishing changes in our individual and national life. Many adjustments will have to be made that can only be made with difficulty. Enlarged purchasing power in the hands of the masses will result in increased demand for the necessities and conveniences of life—for plenty of wholesome food, sanitary housing, boots, shoes and clothing. This demand, if it be large enough, will cause a noticeable shift of labor from the output of luxuries to the output of necessities.

There will be more spending and less saving, particularly if people feel reasonably sure of their jobs and their incomes. But on the other hand, frugality and saving will still be necessary. Our industrial equipment requires fresh supplies of capital to keep it in repair and to expand it as need arises. Therefore, while there should be more spending for worth-while things, particularly among those who have heretofore been grossly under-paid or jobless, there should be concomitantly more saving among the people at large. It is in this way that the wider ownership, self-reliance, and individual independence, of which Pope Pius XI speaks in his Encyclical on "Reconstructing the Social Order," should gradually come about.

Responsibility of Individual Leadership

It is clear, however, that much depends upon honest, wise leadership and individual dependability. There must be a general willingness to cooperate for the common good. We must be ready to fulfill our responsibilities toward ourselves, our families and the larger units of society. That is fundamental; without this social justice and genuine leisure cannot be achieved: we must recognize practically the oneness of mankind in Christ. But out of this recognition will come greater liberty and wider opportunity. Certainly the time when we might all be Robinson Crusoes has gone forever—but the reign of social justice, the practical application of the social principles of the Gospel, will usher in a period of great individual independence, freedom, and self-reliance for all, and assure the perpetuity of democratic government among us.

For leisure does not mean idleness, and men who earn their living and their leisure will not wish to spend their leisure in idleness. Reasonable work, reasonable leisure, and adequate income should strengthen family ties, enable parents to devote more time to their children, to cultivate their confidence and friendship, to teach and guide them. Moreover, a proper distribution of work and leisure must give rise to additional churches, schools, libraries, theatres,

playgrounds, museums, parks, adult education movements, youth organizations, home gardens, the handicrafts that were so conducive to human well-being in an earlier age, and to cheapened travel and its great educating influence.

IV. OUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

IT IS generally agreed that most of the injustice and misery we see today is the result of individual failure in the form of greed. Too many are actuated by the motives of personal gain regardless of the welfare of our neighbor; we are not ready to go far enough in thinking objectively about the whole matter and in lending our influence and our efforts to achieving a truly Christian ordering of society. As Cardinal Gibbons said: "The morality and welfare of society will never rise above the morality and welfare of its individual members."

But society today has largely taken on the tone of a money scramble. When, in the midst of plenty, there are vast numbers of people without means of subsistence, and vast numbers with just bare subsistence struggling to obtain a little more, and a minority with fabulous fortunes, the values of society tend to be based not on human welfare and benefits, not on religion, but on money.

As Pius XI points out in *Quadragesimo Anno*, this is the condition we have to contend with. It interferes with the true ordering of society and prevents the proper exercise of talents and abilities in all walks of life. Our business, then, is to heighten the moral tone of society, to contribute our share to the practical application of religious principle, to lend our efforts toward a proper solution of these urgent problems. All the large movements of society are in the last analysis the result of individual thinking and individual action. All progress, all material change, is preceded by thought; and, to order society aright, the individuals that compose it must be animated by personal integrity and honesty and sound thought. Hence, it is obvious that we are each personally responsible in some measure for the great social movements, some of them dangerous and subversive, that are rumbling about us.

Religious Outlook Guiding Factor

The right use of leisure, and its extension to ever increasing numbers in the community, in the solution of the current social problem, depends first of all upon our religious outlook, upon our recognition of ourselves as children of God whose destiny is eternal life with God and whose purpose in this life is the promotion of the kingdom of God.

"To omit the Church when enumerating the agencies concerned in education for the right use of leisure," observes the Rev. Dr. Charles P. Bruehl, writing in the *Central-Blatt and Social Justice*, "would indeed be a great error. Religion furnishes the selective principle which enables us to choose worth-while leisure activities and to give them the proper place in the hierarchy of educational values. It also disciplines the moral character that it will make the right choices and decide for such leisure activities which actually foster the development of the higher self. Without exaggeration we may say that religion is the salt which keeps leisure wholesome and prevents it from becoming an instrument of moral corruption."

"The increased leisure of the working people," Dr. Bruehl continues, "opens up great opportunities for the Church. A people with adequate leisure is capable of becoming the bearer of a truly religious and highly spiritualized civilization if its activities are directed into the proper channels. We are confident the Church will not miss her splendid opportunities, but will take a large part in the organization of the increased leisure of our days. Social science recognizes the supreme importance of religion in this respect and will welcome her as an ally.

"Thus, for example, Dr. Charles A. Ellwood writes: 'A religion which is adapted to the needs of human life must

have a clear and uncompromising doctrine concerning social pleasures and amusements. Individual character and the character of civilization depend quite as much upon the manner of spending leisure as upon the serious work of life. Until men learn to spend their leisure nobly, to order their social pleasures rightly and rationally, it is idle to think that they can develop high moral character as individuals or create a civilization of beauty and righteousness.'"

V. CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF THE NEW LEISURE

NOTWITHSTANDING the many duties and responsibilities that press on us from every side, particularly if we be parents of growing families, it is probably true that most of us have a considerable amount of spare time at our disposal. In the case of young people, particularly, it is doubtless true that if their spare time could be utilized to the best advantage, even more could be accomplished in spare time, in way of mental, spiritual and physical development, than is actually accomplished in the time allotted to work.

One of life's principal leisure time activities, of course, will always be reading, and for the Catholic in the world today, the reading of Catholic literature is indispensable. With the abundance of such literature available today it is possible for the average Catholic, in his leisure time, to obtain a fundamental grasp of Catholic faith and practice—indeed, to educate himself as a Catholic, without the aid of a formal Catholic education—by the mere reading of Catholic books, pamphlets and periodicals.

On the other hand, if we fail to read Catholic literature, and take up secular literature exclusively instead, we shall soon lose all sense of true values, even if the essentials of our faith remain untarnished. We must steep ourselves in Catholic literature if we would prepare ourselves to participate actively and intelligently in organized Catholic Action, to give a reason for our faith, to be able to answer the questions that our non-Catholic friends ask concerning reports in the secular press, and by a kind word or a brief explanation, help in minimizing hostility against the Church and even in awakening sympathy and interest in Catholic thought and life.

Catholic Literary Aids Available

A number of Catholic literary guides help the reader to cultivate a truly Catholic taste, worthy of the culture and spirit of the Church. Among these are the Catholic Book Club and the Spiritual Book Associates, which select a number of the best Catholic books published during the month; critical comment and book reviews in Catholic magazines and newspapers; digests of current Catholic literature; classified book lists prepared by various agencies, and the quarterly Book Surveys of the Cardinal Hayes Literature Committee, which include books by both Catholic and non-Catholic authors. The *Index to American Catholic Pamphlets* furnishes a complete guide to available pamphlets on all subjects. The *Catholic Periodical Index* provides a key to the wealth of periodical literature that appears each month in Catholic magazines. Your diocesan newspaper is also a good guide to the Catholic literature of the day, in addition to providing authentic Catholic news and feature articles on current Catholic events throughout the world.

One of the best statements of a course in leisure-time Catholic reading is that contained in F. J. Sheed's pamphlet, "Ground Plan for Catholic Reading," with a note on reading and education and a list of 60 volumes, which, if read and studied as recommended, would transform leisure time into golden hours of education and communion with all that is best in Catholic thought. A life of such reading pursued through the years in leisure hours would make the world we live in seem a different place before our eyes.

Another excellent plan for leisure time reading is to

browse through the *Catholic Encyclopedia* in spare moments at home, or in the library, reading at random any article we happen to turn to, or choosing some special subject that interests us. New worlds of knowledge and light can be opened to us in this way.

Finally, the following comment, by Father Bruehl, indicates how our leisure can be utilized to participate in organized Catholic Action and the apostolate of the Church in various ways:

Mobilizing Leisure Time for Catholic Action

"In a twofold sense our various societies are interested in the new leisure. They can profit by it and at the same time help in directing it to beneficent uses. It means for them a new access of vitality if they succeed in mobilizing some of this valuable time in behalf of their purposes and interests. Men who have not been tired out by their business activities or their industrial labors will make alert and active members who can easily be prevailed on to devote their energies to a good cause, engage in social studies and take up any form of social work."

QUESTIONS

1. How does standardized modern production blunt life?
2. What is the opportunity for personal development in a machine age?
3. How does war affect the hope for increased leisure in the future?
4. What is leisure?
5. What is the principal social and economic problem of our time?
6. What economic condition today tends to cause material values and money-making to be overemphasized?
7. Why does the press today turn easily toward catch-penny sensationalism?
8. What is the essential aim as regards ownership in a Christian ordering of society?
9. How will an adequate distribution of work, income, and leisure tend toward greater personal liberty and individual initiative?
10. Are we personally responsible in some measure for the dangerous social movements today? If so, how and why?
11. What part do religion and the Church play in promoting the right use of leisure?
12. What are the opportunities of the Church in the increased leisure of working people?
13. Why is it true often that more can be accomplished in the way of physical, mental and spiritual development in leisure time than in time allotted to work?
14. How can reading in leisure time be put to great profit?
15. Name some of the guides to Catholic literature.
16. In what manner should organized Catholic Action benefit by the new leisure?

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CATHOLIC WOMEN in CATHOLIC ACTION

A Section Recording the
Interests and Accomplishments
of the

NATIONAL COUNCIL of CATHOLIC WOMEN

Meeting of the N. C. C. W. Executive Committee

TWO busy days were spent by the N. C. C. W. Executive Committee at Headquarters, January 16 and 17, reviewing work accomplished to date and laying plans for the remainder of the year. Present were Mrs. J. W. McCollum, Miss M. Pauline Casey, Mrs. Thomas Dignan and Mrs. J. E. Franchere. Mrs. John Bell Hood joined the members of the committee in the meetings. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, Rev. Dr. Howard J. Carroll and Rev. R. A. McGowan participated in the deliberations.

Among the interesting reports was that on the "Good Will Tour" of the Latin American women. Through the diocesan councils of Catholic women, the delegates were given an opportunity to visit Catholic institutions—educational, charitable and religious. The local councils in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Buffalo acted as hostesses. On the West coast, famous missions were visited. In Chicago, the visitors attended Mass at St. Thomas Apostle Church and Rt. Rev. Msgr. T. V. Shannon extended greetings in English and in Spanish. It is interesting to note that the following Bishops extended greetings: Bishops Thomas A. Connolly, San Francisco; Duane G. Hunt, Salt Lake; James H. Ryan, Omaha; Bernard J. Sheil, Chicago. Audiences with His Eminence, William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston and with Dennis Cardinal Dougherty were arranged.

Diocesan Campaign Against Birth Control

The work done by the women of Georgia, under the direction of Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, Bishop of Savannah-Atlanta, to combat the influence of a conference on "Tomorrow's Children," devoted to birth control, was reviewed. In cooperation with His Excellency, the women of the Diocesan Council issued a full-page protest in the local secular papers, calling attention to the reasons for protesting the meeting.

Mrs. John Bell Hood reported on the growing success of the "Shrines in the Home" movement and "Outdoor Cribs at Christmas." Many dioceses have had, in connection with their conventions, displays of shrines of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, and the Christmas crib. The Charleston Diocese and the Archdiocese of Detroit have shown an encouraging growth in the number of outdoor cribs erected this year.

Increased enrollment at the National Catholic School of Social Service was reported by the Rev. Lucian L. Lauerman, director of the School. Seventy-three students are enrolled this year. Father Lauerman hopes to visit several of the dioceses during the coming spring, talking at the colleges, and will entertain invitations from diocesan councils to speak at their meetings.

The Executive Committee was entertained at dinner at the Service School and met the student body. On the same evening a joint meeting of the Executive Committee and

the members of the Washington Auxiliary, N. C. S. S. S., was held. Plans for the "May Parties" and the annual broadcast were discussed. It is the earnest hope of the Executive Committee that all of the diocesan councils will cooperate through the formation of listening-in groups and the holding of local functions which will result not only in an increase of knowledge about the School and its work but aid materially in its financial support.

The reports of the field secretaries revealed intensive work done since convention.

Miss Wilson attended the National Catechetical Congress, helped organize parish councils in the diocese of Kansas City, and since has done follow-up work in organization. She is now working on the Regional Conference in Birmingham.

Interest in Catholic Youth Movement

Miss Kimpel, following the convention, stopped over in El Paso, conferring with youth leaders, helped organize youth groups in the Dioceses of Galveston and Springfield, Ill., as well as holding conferences with youth leaders in Springfield. Following the work in Springfield, where the first diocesan youth convention was held, Miss Kimpel went on to Indianapolis, conferring further with youth leaders. Later she stopped over in Kansas City to attend a leaders' conference en route to Springfield.

Very often N. C. C. W. headquarters receives calls from local institutions in the dioceses, asking for literature, including CATHOLIC ACTION and *Monthly Message*. Just recently the State College of Washington inquired about the possibility of receiving CATHOLIC ACTION and all new publications of the National Catholic Welfare Conference regularly. The Spokane Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has consented to care for this request.

An account of the plans for the Regional Conference at Birmingham appear elsewhere in this issue.

Tentative plans for the annual convention in Detroit, October 26-30, 1940, were made. In accordance with frequent requests from diocesan councils, more time is to be devoted to section meetings, with the possibility of a morning or an afternoon session to be devoted solely to section meetings.

N. C. C. W. Representatives Attend Democracy Conference

Invitations to the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy having been sent to all of the members of the Executive Committee, they attended the opening meeting in a body and several remained over until the close of the Conference.

All the members were very much encouraged by reports of growth in the N. C. C. W. since the convention.

Plans for the Birmingham, Alabama, Regional Conference

WITH the announcement of its first Southern Regional Conference to be held in Birmingham, Ala., April 28 and 29, 1940, the National Council of Catholic Women again appeals to its diocesan units and to all of its affiliated groups therein, to consider seriously the advantages of such a conference and the possibility of revitalizing the work of united Catholic Action in every section of the country through similar conferences.

The Episcopal Chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations, N. C. W. C., the Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, in addressing the annual convention at San Francisco last September, recommended a series of carefully planned "regionals"—these to be so planned that various parts of the country would enjoy systematically the benefits of these conferences. The real purpose of such a conference might be summarized as follows:

1. To bring together those within a given area who have like problems and like interests.
2. To permit larger attendance on the part of both clergy and laity than is possible at national conventions.
3. To give concrete assistance in the work of a particular locality.
4. To promote a better understanding of the aims and purposes of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the National Council of Catholic Women.

Msgr. Leven on Value of Regional Conferences

It would be impossible to measure the far-reaching results of the conference held last May at Dubuque, either to the participating dioceses or to the National Council, in renewed enthusiasm on the part of those who have "borne the burden of the day and the heat" and in the interest created among other likely workers in the vineyard of the Lord. Perhaps nothing could more forcibly indicate the spirit resultant from this conference than to quote from the remarks of the diocesan director of the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, the Very Rev. Msgr. John L. Leven, who participated in the panel discussion on regional conferences at San Francisco. Interpreting the regional conference from the standpoint of his own experience, Msgr. Leven stated:

"We in the Peoria vineyard were confronted not only with the absence of an established council, but also with the lack of understanding of the work of the national council, along with that inertia always found as a result of inactivity. We needed something to jerk us from a rather complacent lethargy to a realization of needed ac-

tivity. The Dubuque conference was for us just that something—a wholesome tonic, stirring the blood stream of the women of the diocese to a healthy circulation. . . . The regional conference was for us a challenge, a clear call to action, an encouragement, and finally a vision of united love and service for God."

The National Council of Catholic Women offers every cooperation and assistance to diocesan councils desirous of entertaining such a conference, through aid in the planning of the program, the assistance of its field secretaries in the contacts and conduct of the conference, and through publicity and preliminary correspondence.

Birmingham Conference Offers Real Opportunity

It is a real joy to contemplate the meeting at Birmingham. The Most Rev. Thomas J. Toolen, Bishop of Mobile, and the Mobile Diocesan Council of Catholic Women extend to the entire Southland and indeed to any council leaders or members who can make the journey to Birmingham, a cordial and urgent invitation to participate. An inter-diocesan committee, which includes three members of the National Board of Directors and the diocesan presidents in the dioceses of Mobile, Savannah-Atlanta, Charleston, New Orleans, Lafayette, Natchez, Nashville, St. Augustine and Little Rock, will aid the local Committee on Arrangements appointed by Bishop Toolen in making suggestions for the program and in the general plans for the conference. Dioceses within the region where no diocesan councils have been established are invited and urged to send representation.

Attention to Organization Problems at Institute Sessions

The program will provide opportunity for discussion of organization problems as well as a series of "Institute Sessions" where special programs will be discussed. The local committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. A. S. Lucas, and in accordance with southern tradition, is providing ample opportunity for the social contacts which are so important and invigorating to all.

It is hoped that the efforts of Bishop Toolen and the Mobile Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will meet with the fullest measure of success and that Catholic Action in the South will be given a great impetus through this regional conference.

Why not investigate the possibilities of such a conference in your diocese?

Program of N. C. C. W.'s 1940 "Call to Youth" Broadcasts

"COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS" will open the 1940 series of the CALL TO YOUTH, given by the National Council of Catholic Women in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company each Saturday at 12:30 p. m. Eastern Standard Time, beginning February 3. This opening talk in the series, "Eternal Heroines as they Walk in the Twentieth Century," will be given by the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen will address the radio audience on the queen of saints, "Our Blessed Mother," February 10. Following this, prominent Catholic women will each Saturday give the life of a saint. Speakers and their subjects are:

February 17—"Little Flower," Frances Parkinson Keyes.

February 24—"St. Anne," Mrs. Carlton J. H. Hayes.
 March 2—"St. Frances of Rome," Maisie Ward Sheed.
 March 9—"St. Brigid," Mary Synon.
 March 16—"St. Mary Magdalene," Margaret Anglin Hull.
 March 23—"Bernadette of Lourdes," Lady Margaret Armstrong.
 March 30—"Saints of the Canon," Helen Walker Homan.
 April 6—"Tekakwitha," Frances Taylor Patterson.
 April 13—"St. Martha," Ade Bethune.
 April 20—"Elizabeth of Hungary," Dorothy Day.
 April 27—"St. Catherine of Siena," Katherine Burton.
 May 4—"St. Rose of Lima," Minerva Bernardino.
 May 11—"St. Hedwig," Mary Wankowicz.
 May 18—"St. Cecilia," Mrs. Wm. C. Hammer.
 May 25—"Jeanne d'Arc," Anne Sarachon Hooley.

N.C.C.W. ACTIVITIES in the DIOCESES

Kansas City Diocese

IN HIS message addressed to the Kansas City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in connection with the forthcoming joint meeting of the Men's and Women's Councils throughout the Diocese, to be held February 24, 25, and 26, Most Reverend Edwin V. O'Hara calls attention to the Holy Father's "Message to the Catholic Women of the World" as expressed at the meeting of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues last Spring in Rome, and quotes: "There was a time perhaps when the apostolic activity of women could limit itself to safeguarding and preserving the Christian life of the home. It is not so today, when all family life, necessarily and immediately, is subject to the social environment in which it is developed. Upon this social environment will depend to a great extent the spiritual fervor of the family and, therefore, its moral and religious life. That is why the Catholic woman of today takes cognizance of her social duties."

Bishop O'Hara points out that these words of Pope Pius XII are really the charter for the parish councils and adds: "For the parish is the most effective social unit of the Catholic Church, and consequently the most suitable for the exercise of the 'apostolic activity of women' of which the Holy Father speaks."

Plans for the diocesan convention include institutes for the four-point program of both Men's and Women's Councils. The business sessions and the institute sessions will be held separately but certain of the general sessions will be joint for both the men and women.

A marked increase in affiliations has been noted since the rebuilding program undertaken by His Excellency during the latter part of 1939. It is expected that all of the parishes throughout the diocese will be officially represented at the convention, to which several speakers of national prominence have been invited.

Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota

THE Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, youth work and work for the Catholic press were the outstanding projects of the Duluth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women during the past year as reported at the biennial convention in Duluth.

The Most Rev. Thomas A. Welch, Bishop of Duluth, pontificated at the Mass opening the convention and preached the sermon, stressing Catholic Action for women.

The work of "The Catholic in a Non-Catholic World" was outlined by the Most Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne.

Encouraging were the reports of the work accomplished during the past year. A branch of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine had been established in every parish of the diocese under the sponsorship of the local council. Miss Miriam Marks, executive secretary of the National Office of the Confraternity, outlined a diversified program to be carried on during the coming year.

Fourteen new youth groups were erected in the diocese during the year. The extension of this youth work was given to the Council as its major activity for the coming year, attention to be centered around providing social and educational employment for young women.

An active program for promoting Catholic literature was in the hands of Mrs. J. M. Shields. *The Register*, the official diocesan organ, was sent to every Catholic home in the diocese. The campaign against salacious literature was vigorously carried forward.

Twelve religious vacation schools were conducted by

groups of Benedictine and Carmelite nuns in the various parts of the diocese, all financed by the units of the Diocesan Council.

Other activities of the Council during the year included attendance at regional and national conventions, cooperation with May Parties for the N. C. S. S. S., sponsoring of lectures by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, and the raising of money for the Catholic Bureau of Charities.

Mrs. John E. MacMahon succeeded Mrs. M. J. Fleming as president.

Diocese of Belleville, Illinois

THE most successful meeting, from the standpoint of attendance and progress, of the Belleville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women was held in Benton, Illinois. The attendance was greater than at any meeting in the last 10 years, with delegates registered from almost all of the parishes in the diocese. The drive for memberships which preceded the meeting resulted in responses from 90 per cent of the parishes.

Committee reports showed that very active work was being carried on in youth, study clubs, parent teacher associations, vacation schools, libraries and literature and Legion of Decency.

The Belleville Diocesan Council also aids the health program of the Physicians Guild in the parochial schools.

The Most Rev. Henry Althoff, Bishop of Belleville, urged the members to spread the work of the Council, especially that in regard to true Christian homes.

Diocese of Natchez

HIGHLIGHTS of the ninth annual convention of the Natchez Diocesan Council of Catholic Women were the first visit of the Archbishop of the Province to an annual convention; attendance of three directors of the National Council of Catholic Women—Mrs. J. W. McCollum, president; Mrs. J. E. Franchere, secretary; and Mrs. J. B. Hood, national chairman on Shrines in the Home; reception and tea at Matagorda Plantation, the home of Mrs. Hood; and a banquet attended by large numbers of non-Catholics.

Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, paid his first visit to a state convention of the Natchez Diocesan Council and addressed the banquet session on "Restoring the Dignity of the Christian Family." "The hope of the world lies in the influence exercised by the Christian Home founded upon the principles of the Prince of Peace," said His Excellency.

A tableau to Christ the King was presented following the banquet. Other talks were on "Peace in the Hearts of Men," "Women and Peace," "Peace in the Home," "Peace Comes with Honesty."

A special session was devoted to "Youth," with talks on "Youth in a Changing World," "The Jocist Movement," "Youth Faces the Future with Faith and Service."

Bishop Gerow praised the women for the work done and asked that during the coming year they direct their efforts toward strengthening the organization of the Catholic Youth program, toward building up and increasing the sale of Christmas cards carrying the religious sentiment and design with the idea of bringing back the true spirit of Christmas and the religious significance of this season. The main objective for the year is to be the stamping out of indecent literature. Attention was called to the menace of Communist literature coming into the state in large quantities for distribution among youth in schools and colleges.

Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana

SPECIAL interest in parent-teacher associations was urged by Most Rev. Robert Lucey, Bishop of Amarillo, speaking at the annual convention of the New Orleans Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. There needs to be more parental influence and interest in the schools, and there should be especial interest in the religious vacation schools, His Excellency stated.

Archbishop Rummel recommended that action be taken so that religious instruction would be given to all the children of the state regardless of denomination. The Council adopted a resolution to this effect.

A further resolution condemned the efforts being made to spread birth control, birth prevention and sterilization. Special commendation was made of the action taken by the Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara and the Savannah-Atlanta Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in combating these efforts in Georgia.

Programs reported upon at the convention included "Study Clubs," "CYO," "Parent Teacher Associations," "Catholic Press" and the "Confraternity of Christian Doctrine."

Mrs. J. W. McCollum, national president, attended the convention and spoke at the banquet. Dr. Maud Loeber was re-elected president for the ensuing year.

Diocese of Indianapolis, Indiana

INTENSIVE training of youth leaders, under the auspices of the Indianapolis Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, preceded the first annual convention held at Indianapolis. More than 1,000 persons were present at the meeting and heard talks by Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, Bishop of Indianapolis; Rev. August R. Fussenegger, spiritual director of the Council; and Miss Agnes G. Regan, executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Miss Anna Rose Kimpel, field secretary on youth activities, spent two weeks travelling throughout the diocese, holding youth leaders training classes.

In his talk before the convention assembled, Bishop Ritter emphasized that holiness must be practiced in individual lives before a program of Catholic Action can be accomplished. Mrs. Charles Barry was reelected president.

Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa

THE program of the Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women for the following year was outlined in an address given by the Most Rev. Francis J. Beckman, Archbishop of Dubuque, at the annual convention held at Mason City. His Excellency called on those present to be active in the Legion of Decency, in the crusade against indecent literature, in parent-teacher associations, and to read the Catholic publication, the *Witness*.

Diocese of Davenport, Iowa

THE annual meeting of the Davenport Diocesan Council of Catholic Women featured as speakers Most Rev. Henry P. Rohlman, Bishop of Davenport; Rev. Donald Hayne, chaplain for Catholic students at the State University; Rev. Walter E. Cullinan and Miss Ethel Garside of Catholic Charities; Judge James P. Gaffney, Marengo; and Mrs. Earl R. Reynolds, past president of the National Council of Catholic Women.

In its business session, the Council voted to assist Bishop Rohlman in his current diocesan program and also to establish a fund for educational films for St. Vincent's Orphan's Home. Miss Frances C. Trainer was reelected president.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

THE theme of the annual convention of the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women was "The Family."

Present at the convention were Most Rev. Samuel A.

Stritch; Most Rev. Joseph Francis Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans; and the Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, Bishop of Natchez.

Mrs. Earl R. Reynolds, past president of the National Council, gave the highlights of the national convention, and Miss Edmire E. Quinlan, national director of the Province of Milwaukee, told of the accomplishments of the National Catholic School of Social Service to date.

The president's report, submitted by Miss Katherine R. Williams, announced the necessity for considering plans for the growth and expansion of Tekakwitha Lodge, told of the progress on the Archbishop Messmer bursary for a seminarian, and of the Cathedral Shrine Fund.

Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana

AN UNUSUAL part of the day's program of the annual convention of the Lafayette Diocesan Council of Catholic Women was the display of Shrines, to introduce the "Shrines in the Home" movement in the diocese.

A literature exhibit, covering every phase of the work of the National Council of Catholic Women, attracted much attention.

Most Rev. Jules B. Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette, gave the opening address and expressed delight at the unusual number in attendance. His Excellency announced the appointment of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Vigliero to serve as diocesan spiritual director for the coming year.

Spreading the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and propagating religion in the home was offered as a program for the Council during the coming year.

Diocese of Toledo

ACTION against the spread of indecent literature through sale at newsstands within the Toledo Diocese was the commission which Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, Bishop of Toledo, gave to the Toledo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women at its annual conference.

In addition, Bishop Alter asked for concentrated effort in the promotion of discussion clubs in the parish units and the organization of parish units throughout the diocese.

His Excellency termed the discussion clubs as the incubators of the ideas which blossom forth into plans and later into action. Mrs. George N. Fell is president of the Toledo Diocesan Council.

N. C. S. S. Luncheon in Nation's Capital

THE first of a series of luncheons that is being planned by the Washington Auxiliary of the National Catholic School of Social Service to acquaint local women with the School and its work has just been held.

The president, Mrs. J. Rozier Biggs, presided. The Rev. Lucian L. Lauerman, director of the School, expressed enthusiastic interest in the proposed plan to increase knowledge of the School and of the growing need for trained workers in the field of social service. The Auxiliary hopes to do this by calling on experts in the field of social service to meet with the group at intervals.

The guest speaker at this first meeting was the Rev. Dr. Edward F. Talbot, instructor in religion and social work at the School.

The Church and Social Order

The above is the title of a most important statement of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference to be released from N. C. W. C. headquarters Wednesday, February 7, 1940. A pamphlet printing of the text, supplemented by a Discussion Outline and an Alphabetical Index, will be shortly available through the N. C. W. C. Publications Office.

Important subdivisions of the statement are devoted to "Ownership," "Property and Labor," "Security," "Wages," and "Establishment of Social Order."

Address inquiries and orders to N. C. W. C. headquarters, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Catholic Press Month Presents—

To Members of the N.C.W.C. Family a Real Opportunity for Live Cooperation in Extending the Apostolate of the Catholic Press

Some Suggestions for Lay Action

1. ASK your pastor and his assistants to stress the mission and message of the Catholic Press some time during February (See Bishop Gannon's Press Month Message in this issue).
2. ORGANIZE a general parish observance scheduling informed lay speakers and stressing first the interests and appeal of your local Catholic publications, then others of general interest.
3. ARRANGE through the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women for definite cooperation with the N.C.W.C. Episcopal Committee on Clean Literature and the Legion of Decency's work for clean movies; arrange for speakers on these two important projects and plan some form of constructive action.
4. PREPARE, if possible, a display, however small, of Catholic papers, periodicals, books, pamphlets, etc. Have some qualified person briefly point out the opportunities of the Catholic Press Apostolate.
5. STRESS the importance of the parish pamphlet rack. Consult with publishers of pamphlets as to booklet popularity and prices. Even if no rack is maintained, purchase (for sale or free distribution) enough copies of some one or more pamphlets (e.g., the two recent encyclicals of His Holiness Pope Pius XII).
6. EXPLAIN the importance of *your own* magazine—CATHOLIC ACTION—calling attention to the new service features found in this February issue.
7. DISCUSS in your February organization or study club meeting CATHOLIC ACTION'S monthly study topic: "Your Leisure"—with its special significance to 1940's Catholic Press Month Observance.

Catholic Press Month calls to every N.C.W.C. member to do SOMETHING for the Catholic Press Apostolate.

Today, more than ever, our Catholic people need the Catholic Press.

What will YOU do during 1940 Catholic Press Month to increase its services to Church and Country?

For further information with regard to the foregoing write:

National Catholic Welfare Conference

1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.